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THURSDAY, MAY 5TH, 2011

PC Mark Goulding and Jenny Jones with the two terrapins

TERRAPINS RESCUED FROM OLD HALL POND!

by PHILIP IRWIN

POLICE in Cowbridge are looking for the person responsible for dumping two terrapins in the pond in Old Hall Gardens.

The animals were eventually rescued by a local ecologist, Jenny Jones, who is looking after them until she finds a suitable home.

Jenny was called in by PC Mark Goulding, who is the South Wales Police Wildlife Officer. His duties normally take him further afield, but this job was a little closer to home.

He told The GEM: "We do take these matters seriously, because two criminal offences are involved here. First, there is an animal welfare issue and second, it is an offence to introduce a non-native species into a local eco-system."

The latter carries a maximum sentence of two years in jail.

He continued: "We are seeking any information about how these terrapins came to be dumped in the Old Hall Gardens."

Damage to the local eco-system is clearly an issue here. Jenny Jones explained: "The pond had proved to be a good home for newts – which are still a protected species, and it looks as if the population has fallen sharply, because the terrapins will have fed on them."

Terrapins are a popular household pet and Mark explained that they are often bought when young and very small, and can be contained within a small tank.

However, the Cowbridge two are now between three and five years of age and are fully grown and quite active. They need an expensive, large, heated tank.

The two are by no means the first to be dumped and, although native to the southern states of America, they can adapt to the colder climate here.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

Following the celebrations last week, this week's GEM has an eight-page royal wedding supplement, and lots of street party pictures from around the Vale. (See page 30 for Cowbridge!)

Vale voters are off to the polls

VOTERS in the Vale will be going to the polls today (Thursday) to elect their Assembly Member for the next four years.

Labour's Jane Hutt is defending a slim majority over the Conservatives. In 2007, the present Vale Council Leader, Coun Gordon Kemp, finished just 83 votes behind.

That year, Jane Hutt polled 11,515, compared to Coun Kemp's 11,432. Plaid Cymru were third on 4,671, with the Lib-Dems fourth on 3,758.

The four contenders are: Jane Hutt (Labour); Angela Jones-Evans (Conservative); Dr Ian Johnson (Plaid Cymru) and Damien Chick (Lib-Dem).

Vale voters will also be asked to cast their vote on the suggested Alternative Vote (AV) method of electing a future UK government.

Town attack

Police are investigating an attack on a 30-year-old man at 11.45pm on Sunday, May 1, at High Street, Cowbridge, near the Duke of Wellington Public House.

A police spokesman described the attack as "unprovoked" and said: "The victim sustained facial injuries and was treated in hospital.

"Three male persons are being sought in connection with this incident and any persons with information are asked to contact South Wales Police on 101 or anonymously to Crimestoppers 0800 555111."

Property wanted in Llanblethian or Cowbridge area

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Thanks for right royal knees-up at Rhoose Point!

MAY I take this opportunity to thank the 'Heol y Drew Crew' who organised our 'royal wedding, meet the neighbours' gathering.

It was a huge success. A great time was had by all and it was the perfect excuse to introduce people to each other.

Having lived at Rhoose Point for six years, it's now an even nicer place to be.

We'are all looking forward to more regular social gatherings.

J Chapman,
Rhoose Point

• ***MORE than 70 people came to the street party organised for Heol y Dryw and Llwyn y Gog at Rhoose Point.***

The food supplied by the partygoers was exceptional and the chocolate fountain and ice cream went down particularly well with the children.

The chilly weather did not stop the party continuing until almost midnight!

John Farrier,
Rhoose Point

Wales needs more quality control...

IN Wales we have been bombarded with election leaflets promising heaven on earth.

Yet I have failed to find any so-called manifesto, any history of the candidate, their background in education, commerce or industry.

I have also failed to find any record of any worthwhile achievements in the public area.

They sometimes give an impressive list of committees that they have been on (a meeting is where you take minutes and waste hours).

If we are not careful, we will end up with an incompetent political collection of inexperienced political researchers, accountants and lawyers.

Have the candidates ever constructed anything or organised a successful business?

We must get real. We have laws, bureaucracy and wars we do not want. We are over-populated, illiterate and somewhat work-shy as a nation.

We must be led by high quality people who want to govern us.

D E Jenkins,
Penarth

'Twin with Haiti' call to council

RECENTLY, The GEM has published letters from the public who each endorse the concept of twinning the Vale of Glamorgan with either Haiti or a district of that island – for a multiplicity of reasons.

"The people of Haiti have so little and yet they are a faith-filled and happy people – they are desperate and yet also full of hope".

These are the words of Frank McKinney, who started his working life with 50 dollars and is now a Miami-based millionaire. He has built 500 homes for 4,000 people living in abject poverty in that country - through his charity 'Caring House Project Foundation'.

The houses are situated in Cite Soleil – the poorest suburb of the poorest city in the western hemisphere's poorest country. "Do this and people flourish", says Mr McKinney.

The restructuring of Haiti is going to take about 20 years. On behalf of those who have written to The GEM about this matter – I call upon the Vale Council to possibly set a precedent in Britain by twinning the Vale with an area of Haiti – or Haiti itself.

G Knight,
Barry

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Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and emails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (*in certain circumstances*), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

'COUNCIL TREATING PEOPLE WITH CONTEMPT'

'Barry needs one strong protest group'

ON reading The GEM newspaper on April 28, I was absolutely disgusted at the Vale Council planning committee's actions in contacting Barry Town Council, requesting that they consider the use of the public open space to the east of Cemetery Approach and the Cemetery Road allotments as a future site for gypsies and travellers.

Not only is this area virtually in the centre of Barry town, but it is also immediately outside the main entrance to the cemetery.

This Conservative-controlled council is treating people of Barry and families with loved ones at rest with utter contempt.

I personally see this as a revenge and political blackmail against the 11,300 residents who had the audacity to sign the petition against the building of 61 houses/flats on this ground.

In the end, they will try to 'console' the people of Barry by saying 'we will not have a gypsy site if we can build there'.

Barry used to be a prosperous seaside town. Before long, it will be looking more like a sprawling concrete open prison, with gridlocked roads, being used by the Vale Council as a dumping ground.

The Vale Local Development Plan for 2011–2026 is their chance to tie up all of the green and open areas of Barry before the local elections (even if they do not get re-elected).

I would like to suggest that the planning committee stop any more construction until our road infrastructures are upgraded to take the weight and volume of traffic for the 21st century.

Barry residents are forming groups, associations and signing petitions in an effort to protect their areas, but they are picked off one by one by our council.

We must form one strong town group, to portray a united front that cannot be picked off by the council.

We have got the local elections within one year (May 2012). I would like to see steps taken to apply for a referendum to return Barry back to the 'Barry Borough Council', with the possibility of the referendum vote being held on the same day as the local election next year.

(By the way, Cowbridge Common would make a lovely open gypsy travellers' site).

Bryn Evans,
FocusBARRY supporter.

'Porthceri Centre arts group still believes in the people of Barry'

THE Porthceri Centre group would like to give our response to the news that the Porthkerry church has been sold.

The sale of the building in which we have been active over the past nine months was indeed a blow, particularly as we were 10 weeks away from submitting our bid to the Barry Regeneration Board.

We are, however, continuing to work towards our goal of a cultural centre in Barry, incorporating a medium-sized performing arts venue, visual arts and crafts, and Welsh language activities.

Following discussions, our bid will use the Porthceri Centre as a model of what we aim to do, and will include an options appraisal of the URC Windsor Road premises and the Pumphouse site.

Our bid is at an advanced stage and although we can no longer focus on Porthceri as a permanent home, we believe that the concept which we developed a year ago is equally viable in other venues in Barry.

Who knows, the sale of Porthceri may be a cloud that has a uniquely silvery lining!

Why we believe in this concept, and why we have been working so hard to make it happen is because we believe in Barry and its people.

Anyone looking around the town will have marvelled at the ingenuity, resourcefulness and commitment displayed in its history, and been left wondering why a town built on aspiration now finds itself at times defined by desperation.

We also believe there is an unsatisfied appetite in Barry for the opportunity to be creative and enjoy the creativity of others, to entertain and be entertained, to uplift and be uplifted, and to inform our future by celebrating our collective past.

With the numbers of children attending Welsh-medium schools set on a steadily increasing trend, and the numbers of Welsh learners also rising, we envisage a home for Welsh-language activities in the Vale.

There is little doubt about the need for a centre where out-of-school, post-school and adult Welsh-medium activities across the artistic spectrum can be a part of the mainstream of cultural events in Barry and the Vale.

This does not mean the centre would be for 'Welshies', a term used to describe our plans and which even I, as a Scot, find offensive.

Our vision is simply for a place where the Welsh language is part of the wider picture, and is reflective of the community.

There are other groups in Barry whose aims are related to ours. They, too. are committed to building a better Barry by responding to the aspirations of the community.

The Porthceri Centre group is inclusive and is willing to work with groups and individuals who share our goals for the town.

This does not mean building a playground just for the cultural elite – on the contrary, it means giving the widest possible access to the best of what culture has to offer, in Barry.

The words of Welsh academic and critic Raymond Williams capture something of what we believe to be the zeitgeist in Barry – "*to be truly radical is to make hope possible rather than despair convincing*."

We believe it is our responsibility as Barrians to prove that we can DELIVER and translate hope into reality.

If you would like to offer support or practical help email chair@porthceri.co.uk, or text Porthceri on 07958590365.

If you visit www.porthceri.co.uk you will find details of how to contact our elected representatives to have your say.

Dorothy Connell,
chair, Porthceri Centre.

Cratered road and fly tippers

MAYBE there would not be so much fly tipping if the access road to the amenities centre on Llandow was in better condition– it has gone beyond the state of being pot holed, it is cratered.

Driving to the amenities centre poses a real danger of damaging your car. Surely the owners have some sort of responsibility to provide safe access to businesses that rent space on the site?

D Andrews,
Boverton.

Cemetery Road exercise is a 'waste of time'

I HAVE been involved with the Roma and traveller community for more than 40 years and I myself have Roma and gypsy ancestry through my great-great-grandmother.

It is therefore with some surprise that I read your lead article last week on the land east of Cemetery Road, Barry, being considered as a possible traveller site.

In my opinion, although this site needs considerable attention and is an eyesore, it would be totally unsuitable as a travellers site.

If canvassed, many travellers would prefer a site close to an urban environment but also with ready access to the countryside. To even consider a site surrounded by houses is asking for trouble and confrontation, which is certainly not desired by travellers nor the settled 'gavjo' community.

Even to go through with the exercise is a waste of council offericers' time.

I hope they think more constructively in the future and consult with gypsy organisations as to their ideal sites, which will minimise any possible conflict with the settled community.

Christopher Short,
Former vice president of the National Gypsy Education Council.

Little thought for Barry?

I AGREE wholeheartedly with the comments of Dennis Harkus in last week's issue of The GEM, regarding the use of land to the east of Cemetery Road, Barry.

Unfortunately, as the Vale Council planning committee seems to be dominated by councillors who reside in the rural Vale area they, as they have done on many previous occasions, will show little consideration for the interest of Barry residetns.

John K McTavish,
Barry

'Parking permits in Barry are worthless'

I AM writing regarding parking restrictions in Newlands Street, Barry, where there are signs for two-hour parking and permit holders-only parking.

I'm a resident and therefore required to display a parking permit in my car.

However, since the police have withdrawn traffic wardens, these restrictions of two hours and permit holders only have no value whatsoever; non-residents are parking in both two hours and permit holder bays for as long as they wish.

Community Support Officers have been asked to pick up parking offences, yet I have been told that due to cuts to South Wales Police, Buttrills ward only has one PCSO. He is expected to deal with a whole range of issues in the ward, in addition to parking offences.

The Vale Council is in discussions with Bridgend County Borough Council to jointly run a warden service, but this will take at least 18 months to complete.

So in the meantime, we have to put up with the current situation and the inconvenience it causes. Parking permits at present would not seem worth the paper they are printed on.....and a waste of taxpayers' money.

P Inch (nee Moore),
Barry

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL MAY 12)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
05 Thur	09.26	9.2	21.41	9.4
06 Fri	10.02	9.3	22.14	9.3
07 Sat	10.37	9.1	22.54	9.0
08 Sun	11.15	8.8	23.29	8.7
09 Mon			12.03	8.5
10 Tues	00.22	8.4	12.58	8.2
11 Wed	01.26	8.1	14.06	8.0
12 Thur	02.39	8.1	15.25	7.9

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

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Bonvilston hosts a whole series of events to celebrate their right royal occasion!

ON SATURDAY April 30, more than 200 Bonvilston residents, children and relations came together for a village party to celebrate the royal wedding.

The idea came from a long standing resident, Mary Provis and the event was organised by a group of enthusiastic villagers who provided support on the day.

With pony rides, face painting, skittles and an opportunity to paint your own royal wedding mug there were plenty of activities for the children. There was even a good old-fashioned coconut shy that proved very popular.

The centerpiece of the day was a children's tea party for more than 50 children with free sandwiches, cakes and refreshments for all the adults.

All of the catering was brilliantly organised by Jan Hayes and Fran Mitchell. A big thank you to Jan and Fran and to all those who provided the cakes and sandwiches.

For the competitions, judges were drafted in from outside the village to ensure impartiality. Thanks go to Jonathan and Janet Bird, who, together with Meirion and Tina Evans and the expertise of Tricia Hill, had the unenviable task of awarding prizes to the best princess, best prince, best crown and the best mug painted on the day.

The winner of the best overall wedding mug design was Rebekah Magee (aged nine) and thanks to David Johns Powell, this will be printed on around 300 mugs to be distributed to every house in the village as a memento of the occasion!

The afternoon's events were rounded off with a fiercely fought tug of war. In fact, it was so competitive no one really knows who won but it is sure to become a regular highlight of future village events!

With a barbecue and disco in the evening it really was an event with something for everyone.

Many thanks to all those who gave of their time and expertise to make the day such a special one for Bonvilston.

PAUL FISHER

The great cause behind Cowbridge Book Festival

A HOST of celebrities and big-name authors will descend on Cowbridge for a week-long book festival this month, in support of the blood cancer charity Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research.

Alastair Campbell, Geoff Thomas, John Hartson, Adam Hochschild, Stevie Davies and Dai Smith are among a 28-strong line-up of distinguished authors who will be visiting the town between Monday, May 16 and Sunday, May 22.

An exciting children's programme includes Mark Brake and Jon Chase, The Etherington Brothers and Nicola Davies.

The festival, which takes place at the Old Hall Adult Education Centre and United Free Church in Cowbridge, will allow visitors the opportunity to meet their favourite authors, hear entertaining presentations and buy signed copies of their books.

Other highlights are a photographic exhibition which runs throughout May, as well as a Vintage and Craft fair in the Old Hall Gardens on Saturday, May 21.

Event organiser and former librarian, Stella Cheeseman, explained: "We went on holiday to Australia back in February with eight or nine speakers confirmed and by the time we got back there were 28 authors interested – the response has been fantastic!

"I hope it will bring lots of people to Cowbridge and that we can make this an annual fundraiser for Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research."

Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research is the only UK charity solely dedicated to research all blood cancers including leukaemia, lymphoma and myeloma.

Last year, Cardiff University was named the charity's first centre of excellence, recognised for its world class research into the two most common forms of adult leukaemia – acute myeloid leukaemia (AML) and acute lymphocytic leukaemia (CLL).

Stella said: "Ten years ago, we lost a good friend and neighbour to leukaemia and around the same time another friend's daughter had leukaemia. After years of intensive treatment she recovered.

"Everyone seems to know someone who has been affected by a blood cancer and I'm just so impressed by the strides that are being made in research but clearly the battle must go on.

"As a leukaemia survivor our 'launch' author, Geoff Thomas, is living proof that the money people donate to Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research is being put to good use. Former England midfielder and Crystal Palace captain, Geoff Thomas, is visiting Cowbridge tomorrow (Friday, May 6) to formally launch the Cowbridge Book Festival with his book 'Riding Through the Storm'."

For more programme information visit: www.cowbridgebookfestival.co.uk. To book tickets, please call Stella on 01446 774827.

ART DEMO

COWBRIDGE Art Society meets on Thursday, May 12 at 7pm in the annex of the Old Hall, High Street, Cowbridge, when it welcomes Andy Hardwick, who will be demonstrating the use of oils. Non-members are welcome to attend.

TOWN COUNCIL NEWS

Eisteddfod group asks for cash grant

by PHILIP IRWIN

THE organising committee for the 2012 National Eisteddfod at Llandow has contacted Cowbridge Town Council with a request for a large donation towards the cost of staging the event.

The Mayor, Coun Len Taylor, told council members that he had attended a meeting at which the eisteddfod committee had made a presentation and had formed the impression that they were looking for a sum in the region of £10,000.

Coun Jon Harris, who is the chairman of the finance and general purposes committee, said that he felt that such a donation might be "outside the scope of the council".

Coun Nicola Thomas said that she felt that £10,000 was too much. Coun Gwen Baty said that although she was very much in favour of the eisteddfod, she felt that the matter should be referred to the finance and general purposes committee, and that guidance should be sought.

She was supported in this proposition by Coun Jon Harris, and the matter has been passed to the finance and general purposes committee.

The council has also received a letter from Hywel Wyn Edwards of the eisteddfod committee, pointing out that the event typically puts between £6 million and £8 million into the local economy.

In his letter, he says that in recent eisteddfodau, local community councils have been "very generous" in their donations.

He says that councils can, if they wish, make their donation in installments.

NEW MAYOR

THE mayor-making *ceremony for Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council will take place on the evening of May 17, where the current deputy mayor, Coun Andy Banks, will be confirmed as next year's mayor.*

Coun Nicola Thomas is set to be confirmed as next year's deputy mayor.

The council's annual general meeting will take place the following evening, May 18.

LICENCE

COWBRIDGE Comprehensive School has applied for an entertainment licence for its new 300-seat concert hall.

The licence is for seven days a week, between 8am until 11pm.

CO-OPTED COUNCILLOR

FOUR local residents have put their names forward to fill the vacant seat in Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council.

The council has taken the decision to co-opt one member onto the council for the Llanblethian West seat.

An election could have been called had 10 electors come forward and signed a document requesting one, but this did not happen.

The co-opted councillor will serve one year, as council elections are due to take place in May 2012.

The council has formed a selection committee comprising councillors Sue Cox, Gwen Baty, Dave Morris and Jon Harris.

The local residents who have come forward and offered themselves for co-option are: Peter Knapp, Julian Hitchcock, Frances Blomeley and Georgina Magnay.

Find us on Facebook - *just go to facebook.com /gemnews*

COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

Funeral

TREOES Young at Heart Club members were shocked to hear of the sudden death of Mr Gordon Lewis (aged 71).

Many were present at his funeral which took place on Thursday, April 21 at St Crallo's Church, Coychurch.

Gordon was born in Coychurch, where he lived for the greater part of his life.

He became the church bellringer, a duty her performed until his death.

Following the service, the cortege proceeded to the Mid Glamorgan Crematorium.

Officiating clergy were Canon Peter Raikes and Bishop David Yeoman. Can Peter Raikes had known Gordon since they were boys.

Linda, Terry and Malcolm wish to thank everyone for their kindness at this sad time.

Kilimanjaro challenge

MISS Julie Lloyd of Park Newydd, Treoes, will leave Wales on June 7 with a group of friends – and endeavour to climb Mount Kilimanjaro, which is situated close to the border of Kenya and Tanzania.

This will be a most arduous challenge for the group, whose aim is to raise funds for Velindre Hospital, Cardiff.

If any GEM reader would like to support this effort by sponsoring the group, please telephone 01656 663696.

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CHOIR STARTS COUNTDOWN TO THE ANNUAL CONCERT

COWBRIDGE Male Voice Choir will be celebrating the end of their 40th anniversary year on Saturday, May 14, with their 41st annual concert in Cowbridge Leisure Centre at 7pm.

They have been preparing for this special concert all year and have practised a wide repertoire of new songs for the occasion.

These range from a lovely arrangement of '*The Lord is my Shepherd*' based on the theme song for the popular television programme '*The Vicar of Dibley*', to an arrangement of Robbie Williams' '*She*' and the rousing chorus '*Divine Brahma*' from Bizet's '*The Pearl Fishers*'. The concert will be conducted by Shelley Thomas-Brown, with Sandra Williams providing the accompaniment. The Master of Ceremonies will be the choir's own Keith Davies.

The soloist this year is Gavin Davies who was born in Cardiff and has studied under Jason Howard, Sir Thomas Allen and Gerald Wragg.

He has an extensive repertoire, having appeared as soloist with many choirs and choral societies both throughout the UK and abroad.

Gavin was the soloist at the 61st American-Welsh National Gymanfa Ganu in Kansas City, USA and has also performed elsewhere in the USA, Malta and Israel.

In recital, he has performed with the famous pianist Ingrid Surgenor and the 1997 winner of the Cardiff Singer of the World, Chinese mezzo-soprano, Guang Yang.

On the operatic stage he has performed with many companies including the Welsh National Opera (with Bryn Terfel in '*Die Fliegende Hollander*'.

Tickets can be obtained in Cowbridge from Sorrento, David Barnes Dry Cleaners and the Cowbridge Leisure Centre; in Llantwit Major from Gwyneth J Morgan, Optometrist; and in Pontyclun from the Charity Shop. **BOB WHITAKER**

Ysgol Iolo had a 'wedding', too!

Children in year-1 at Ysgol Iolo Morganwg have been studying weddings, culminating in a 'ceremony' at Holy Cross Church in Cowbridge, with Canon Derek Belcher, and a reception held at Happy Daze.

Staff at the church, Happy Daze and parents and families of the schoolchildren all pulled together to make it a day to remember. FJ

Health centre praised as a fantastic new local facility!

Pat Hold and Dr Arnold with Jane Hutt.

THE new Cowbridge Health Centre's teams of doctors, nurses and practice managers have been congratulated on the "seamless move" from their old premises to a brand new state-of-the-art health centre.

"With financial support from the Welsh Assembly, this fantastic new facility puts health care and well being at the forefront for Cowbridge and surrounding villages," commented Jane Hutt during a recent visit to the centre.

Terrapins found in Old Hall pond

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

There is, apparently, a colony in Roath Park Lake in Cardiff, and Mark has appeared on a BBC Wales programme *Rhys to the Rescue,* with the Cardiff University herpetologist Dr Rhys Jones.

On that programme, Mark and Dr Rhys were able to prove that terrapins can be quite elusive, and they had great trouble catching them!

It is quite remarkable that cold-blooded animals such as terrapins have been able to survive the last two severe cold winters that we have experienced, but dumping them in the wild is still, says Mark, an animal welfare issue.

He explained: "They are vulnerable to attack from larger birds, and we have found dead terrapins that have been partially eaten after such an attack."

On the other side of the coin, terrapins have no teeth, but they have a razor sharp beak, and on Roath Park Lake have taken bites out of ducks' feet or fishes' fins.

PC Goulding added: "Anyone with information can contact me at Cowbridge Police Station, or by telephoning 101."

Royal wedding fever at local street party!

THE residents of Mill Park in Cowbridge celebrated the royal wedding with lots of food and wine, tug-of war and croquet, and games especially for the children.

HR

COMMUNITY NEWS

LLANBETHERY & LLANCARFAN

Your community correspondents are Sam & Patsie Smith on (01446) 751448

MUSIC in the Vale is a charitable organisation that encourages excellence and enjoyment in the performance of vocal and instrumental music among young people.

The organisation has as its patrons Rebecca Evans and Owain Arwel Hughes.

There is a competition in November each year and Music in the Vale puts on concerts during the year to raise funds.

On May 9 there is a 'musical evening', with performances by Rebecca Evans, WNO musicians and 'Music in the Vale' young finalists.

The evening will be held at Coedarhydyglyn, Saint Nicholas by kind permission of Rhodri and Annabelle Traherne. There will be champagne and canapés and the evening will run from 7pm to 9pm. Tickets are £50 per person and will be available from Sheelagh Lewis 01446 781002.

Llancarfan Society

THE annual general meeting of the Llancarfan Society takes place on Friday, May 6 at the village hall at 7.30pm.

Everyone is most welcome and is invited to take a glass of wine on arrival.

Bonvilston crafts

A CRAFT fayre is being held at the Reading Rooms in Bonvilston on Saturday, May 14 from 10am–3pm.

St Hilary WI's birthday dinner!

NEWS FROM ST HILARY WI

MEMBERS celebrated the 79th birthday of St Hilary WI in March, with dinner at the Aubrey Arms, Bonvilston.

A convivial evening was had by all and the birthday toast was proposed by vice-president, Molly Ranger, as Betty Thomas, the president, was unable to attend due to ill health.

The April meeting was held in St Hilary Village Hall and after the usual business was completed, members embarked on a games evening.

Amid much merriment, groups played indoor bowls, Scrabble and bagatelle (using Molly Ranger's antique board).

After an enjoyable session, the evening ended with refreshments provided by Jenny Hughes and Olive Lewis.

The next meeting will be held on May 10 and will include discussion of the 2011 resolutions.

SD

'Passion play was so moving'

ON Good Friday, I had the opportunity to visit Holy Cross Church in Cowbridge to see the Passion Play organised by Churches Together of Cowbridge and District.

The whole performance was an extremely moving experience and quite exceptional in every way.

The standard of presentation was first class; the quality of acting, the detail from the scriptures, marking and celebrating the true meaning of Easter.

The play provoked my thoughts in so many ways and it was obvious from the reaction of those present that many others felt the same way.

Congratulations to everyone involved and thank you.

Alun Cairns, MP for the Vale

Council votes against use of tennis courts

Social club must continue search for a new home

REPORT by JAYNE ISAAC

THE Llantwit Major Social Club is to be told that it will not be allowed to build new premises for itself on the tennis courts in the town.

The organisation, which is homeless since it sold its clubhouse to a building firm for redevelopment, has more than £700,000 at its disposal to build a new headquarters.

It had abortive talks with Llantwit Major RFC about providing a joint headquarters and has now teamed up with the town's boxing club, which had been given permission to build a gym on one of the tennis courts.

The social club committee then approached Llantwit Major Town Council last August to see if a much larger building could be erected on the tennis courts providing facilities for the community. One court would remain for anyone wishing to play tennis.

The town council discussed it in September and referred the request to its buildings and recreation committee last November.

Mr Roger Andrews, secretary of the club, then wrote and asked the council to make a decision one way or the other.

He stated that they had complied with a council request to meet Vale planners, which took place last November with Coun Gwyn John and Coun Keith Geary present.

Mr Andrews said they were told that planners would view their proposal in a positive light and felt it represented a quantum leap forward in the provision of facilities in the town.

But since then, the committee has heard nothing further from the town council.

"We feel that perhaps the council are waiting for us to make some further approach. I wish to formally request that the council reconsider our proposal in the light of these discussions….and give us a straightforward response, either that they will support the scheme in principle, or that they will not."

He said that if the council gave a positive response the committee would then be willing to spend money taking the scheme forward by producing detailed proposals and staging a public exhibition on the project.

Coun Ann Matthews moved that the council reject the scheme because she did not believe it was viable. There were issues to do with access and parking and it would also impinge on the play area.

"I just do not think it's a suitable place. We should say no once and for all," she commented.

Coun Colin Faulkner said that the Social Club should commission a feasibility study to look at issues like access and parking.

He would also like to see more detailed proposals about what was going to be happening within the new club.

Coun Russell Downe was under the impression that Town Council delegates would meet the planners and then report back. There had been no report back on that meeting.

"The council has not been informed of what happened at the meeting," he said. "Yes, there are problems with access from Illtyd Avenue but I do not think that these proposals are written in stone. Things can be moved around, altered or taken out.

"What they are looking for is whether or not we support this scheme in principle and whether we support the idea of having something there. Everything can then be worked out to our satisfaction.

"If not, we will say that it is not feasible. We have not reached that point yet. To bin it straight away is ridiculous."

Mr Andrews maintained that the access off Illtyd Avenue had already been ruled out by Vale planners so was a 'no-no'.

"All we are asking is whether or not the council will agree in principle to have a social facility on the tennis courts. If the council does not agree, we will go away and do something else.

"But if they think it's a good idea, we are prepared to expend the money in preparing plans and on an exhibition of what we are hoping to do.

"There will be full consultation with the public and the council. We do not want to do anything that's bad for the town. We want to create a new social facility for the people of Llantwit Major.

"The tennis courts are slap bang in the middle of the community and they are not used.

"We just want to know at this stage if the council thinks this is a good idea. Everything is very flexible but we do not want to spend money if you are against this."

Coun Faulkner stated that in his view the council did not have enough information to say either yes or no.

"On the information we have so far, there are more no's than yeses. We are looking for more substantial documentation. All we know is that you want to build a clubhouse and you have £700,000 to spend. That's not enough to make a decision."

But Mr Andrews said they did not want to spend £4,000 on a planning application to build there and then have the council saying that they do not want it.

Coun Ann Matthews said that that was why the council should say no now.

"We already have three facilities – the bowls club, the rugby club and the Llantonian Hall in that area. There is not enough parking for what's already there. How do people access this site? You will either have to remove the small children's play area or knock down the Llantonian Hall.

"This part of the town is already well served. The Pentre Cwrt area has no facilities."

In a reply to a question from Coun Dave Lane about the history of the club, Mr Andrews said that at the moment, the club still exists.

"If it ceases to exist, the question of the money goes out of our hands and we do not know what would happen to it. It could go back to the exchequer."

Coun Bob Gant remarked that while he appreciated that they did not want to waste money, until they carried out a feasibility study nobody would know what options there were: "We need to have this study to get some detail," he added.

Coun Sally Bagstaff said that building a new social club was an excellent idea but she did not think that the tennis courts were the site for it.

"It would be wonderful if a different area could be found. It's a great pity that the rugby club and yourselves could not co-operate – that would be a great idea."

Coun Downe reported that only two people had used the tennis courts in two years: "The plan is to keep one and use the other three. They are not being used. We have spent thousands of pounds trying to bring back tennis but it is not working.

"I cannot see how using that site will cause problems."

Coun Eric Hacker said that the council could agree that this was a good idea – either on the tennis courts or elsewhere.

"I am against it going on the tennis courts and although they are not being used at the moment, they should be retained for the public.

"What they want is for us to state whether or not we are in agreement that this club should go somewhere in the town."

Coun Gwyn John said that as a former member of the club, he was totally in favour of a new club being built but planners had stated that they wanted a feasibility study submitted when the planning application goes forward.

"I do not think this is the right location. There are problems with parking there now."

On a vote, the council decided by eight votes to one against allowing the tennis courts to be used. There were four abstentions.

Cars attacked with a hammer

This CCTV image has been released by Barry Police investigating damage to a blue Citroen C4 and a blue Hyundai Tucson parked in the driveway of a house at Coldbrook Road West, on April 11.

"It is believed that the suspect jumped over large gates at the front of the premises and attacked the vehicles using a claw hammer," a police spokesman said.

Anyone with information should contact PC Gareth Holmes at Barry Police Station on 01446 731623, or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

EXHIBITION TELLS STORY OF SAD LOSS

– and moving reunion!

Mary Husted.

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

BEHIND a new art exhibition in Barry lies a tale of human loss, haunted memories and final redemption.

The story began in the early 1960s when a teenage girl was forced to give up her baby for adoption, and told by her family to start her life again.

But the central experiences of life can't be erased that easily and the young mother never forgot the child she handed over at the age of ten days.

Decades later, following an astonishing sequence of events, mother and son saw each other for the first time in 44 years.

That mother, Barry artist Mary Husted, aged 66, has drawn on her emotional journey to create an exhibition – 'Hush Don't Tell' and works from the 'Spiegel im Spiegel Series' – that opens at Art Central in the Town Hall on Saturday, May 14, and runs to June 4.

Mary's son Luke was conceived when she was an idealistic 17-year-old art student.

"I was at West Sussex College of Art and met a handsome, foreign student – it was my first romance.

"I had Luke in 1963. At that time it was a shameful thing and my parents wanted to hush it up.

"My parents were not keen for me to marry someone who would take me abroad."

Mary's family home was in Worthing, but as the pregnancy developed, it was decided she should go and live with a family friend in Reading.

Her parents told people she had gone to live in Germany for a year. Many years later, she discovered that the subterfuge has been to no avail because her friends had guessed exactly what had happened!

Pressurised into handing Luke over for adoption, in the brief ten day period before the handover, she drew pencil sketches of the child she believed she would never see again.

"I knew the sketches were the only thing I would have when he had gone."

"I was told to forget the baby and start my life again."

Mary went to work in London and soon got married, having three children in quick succession, Lisa, Sara and Jason. The marriage didn't work out, and in 1974 she married a second time, and had a fifth child, Rachael.

"We moved to Barry in 1979 when my husband, Andrew Vincent, was offered a position at Cardiff University.

"It has been our home since then, although we have had periods abroad."

Mary's children are now adults and she is inordinately proud of them all, but admits that when they began to fly the nest, like many mothers, it was a troubling time for her.

"When my two eldest daughters went off to university, I had an identity crisis and began to ask questions like: 'Who am I?' and 'What am I?'"

Encouraged by a local art history teacher to return to her artistic roots, Mary took a four year course at Cardiff University and graduated in 'fine art' at the same time that her son Jason graduated in electronic engineering.

Despite the passing of time, Luke was never far from her thoughts and her art was suffused in Mary's words "consciously and subconsciously" by the loss of her child.

"I was hiding messages in my work, and over time they were becoming more deliberate."

One of Mary's pictures from 1991 – 'Dreams, Oracles and Icons' – was highly symbolic: a teenage Mary with a bird in her hand, and underneath a baby falling away from her.

She donated the picture to New Hall, Cambridge, which had decided it wanted to house a collection of women's art.

"I thought: 'Can I let this go?' And then I thought: 'It's a privilege to be in the collection'.

"I also thought it would act as a flag for Luke. It seemed cloud cuckoo land that anything would happen."

Mary's married name is Vincent, but professionally she has used the rarer surname Husted.

Over the years, she had tried without success to trace her long lost son. What she didn't know was that Luke, now married with two sons, was determined to find her.

Luke googled the name Husted and up came New Hall Art Collection and the picture of a teenage girl, a bird in her hand, and a baby falling away from her…

For Luke it was a charged moment. He explained: "The more I looked, the more I realised this picture was probably about me. It was like a shiver down my spine."

He sent Mary a sensitively worded email which said he was researching his family tree and was looking for 'Mary Vivienne Husted' who had lived in the Reading area of England in the 1960s.

It went into Mary's spam box, but by the grace of God, she didn't delete it.

"I decided to read it. I had goosebumps and went cold. I knew it was my son and felt elation."

A fortnight later in October 2007, Mary had an emotional reunion with her ten day old son, now a strapping 44-year-old man, at Kew Gardens.

"It was lovely. Wonderful. We stared at each other. We couldn't stop talking. We bonded straight away."

Luke is a company director and although his adoptive father is dead, his adoptive mother is still alive.

His name is actually not Luke, and can't be revealed because he and his sister decided that they did not want to upset his adoptive mother with news that he had tracked down Mary.

He had actually called one of his own sons Luke, which thrilled Mary because it indicated an acceptance of the past.

He has built up friendships with Mary's four children and with his skills in running an audio-visual company has helped in the presentation of Mary's exhibition.

Friends had urged Mary to bring 'Hush Don't Tell' and 'Spiegel im Spiegel' – which means mirror in the mirror – to Wales, but even better than that, it will feature in her home town.

The exhibition, which comprises drawings in a 3D format, contains more than 30 pieces and deals with themes of loss, memory and the past. Now you know why.

Fibromyalgia support

THE Vale of Glamorgan Fibromyalgia support group's monthly meeting will be on Tuesday, May 10 between 11am–1pm. Contact the group leader, Barbara Clissett on 0845 345 5813 for further details. Calls charged at standard rate.

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NEWS FROM PENARTH AND DISTRICT SCOUT COUNCIL

GIRLS SWELL GROWING NUMBERS OF SCOUTS

CENSUS figures for membership of The Scout Association, show that Wales has the largest increase overall.

Penarth and District has seen an overall increase of 23.8 per cent increase of youth members over the past 12 months, with an increase of female members included in this figure.

Some female members were interviewed for the ITV Wales News on Friday, following the news that more girls are joining scouting than ever before (the report can be seen via the District website, penarthanddistrictscouts.org.uk).

Megan Brooks, Scout Leader, said: "I was in Guides when I was younger, I remember not being there for long and I joined Scouts because I think it has more to offer."

Tesoro, an Explorer Scout with the Les Pugh's own ESU commented: "We are getting chances to do thing that before we couldn't do, and we can join in with boys and have fun."

Holly, another Explorer Scout, said: "I think it is always good for everyone to be involved for all the activities because it just makes it seem much more integrated and widens your friendship circle".

Julian Jordan, District Commissioner for Penarth and District told ITV: "We encourage anyone to join, Scouting is for all, girls, boys, adults, there is a place in Scouting for everyone".

Bear Grylls, Chief Scout, said: "It's great to see that more and more girls are signing up to Scouting and that the movement is continuing to grow as a whole. Being a Scout represents all that is great about life: adventure, life skills and friendship – and it is no surprise that so many girls are wanting to be part of that. It's absolutely crucial, though, that more adults sign up as volunteers as well, to ensure that we can keep up with the huge demand."

With an increase in youth membership, more adult support is required at all levels and anyone interested can find more information about joining Scouting at *scouts.org.uk/join.*

Information about the Penarth and District Scouts can be found on the website *www.penarthanddistrictscouts.org.uk*

Barry Angus,
Deputy District Commissioner

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Phil Dutfield.

Phil is Penarth's new man at helm

PENARTH lifeboat station's team of volunteers has a brand new manager who will lead the shore based and sea-going crew, and ensure the safe running of the Wales' fifth busiest lifeboat station.

Forty-year-old Phil Dutfield took up his role as Penarth RNLI's lifeboat operations manager, having been a volunteer with the Penarth RNLI for 22 years.

He joined the charity as a teenager via the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, and since then has been a sea-going member of the operational crew, both as a crew member and a helmsman. He also spent several years as Penarth lifeboat station treasurer.

Phil is part of a large team of Penarth volunteers – fundraisers, shore crew, seagoing personnel and management – who give their time and commitment to the RNLI .

All volunteers have their own 'day jobs' and Phil's is a 20-year career with South Wales Police, currently working on the police helicopter.

Phil said: "In the new role, I hope my 22 years' experience as a crew member and helmsman will only enhance and support the previous good work which has already been established by previous lifeboat operation managers – most recently Philip Lay who held the role for five years – and existing crew members.

"The RNLI is very much aware of its role within the community in Penarth, and we are all proud to be part of this charity.

"Because we are funded entirely by charitable donations, we rely on the support of the public, and over the past years, I've been constantly amazed at the generosity of the members of the public."

Phil is married to school teacher Heather, and the couple have two young children.

Anyone interested in joining the crew or helping in any way can email the Lifeboat Station - Penarth@rnli.org or call into the lifeboat station, on Penarth Esplanade on a Tuesday evening.

Beaches ban on dogs

LOCAL owners have been warned that dogs are banned from the beaches at Southerndown, Llantwit Major, Cold Knap, Barry Island and Penarth. between May 1-September 30.

A spokeswoman for the Vale Council pointed out: "A by-law exists to protect bathers and ensure their safety throughout the summer, when the beaches have their highest number of visitors.

"During this time it is an offence to bring a dog on any of the beaches listed above and if you're caught breaking the ban you could face a fine of up to £500.

"You can still walk your dog at all other Vale beaches year round, but please remember to be a responsible owner and pick up after your pooches. Once bagged and tied you can use any council bin to dispose of your dog's waste," she added.

The council provides free blue poop bags which are available from the Civic Offices in Barry and the Alps Office in Wenvoe. Owners can also collect blue bags from Penarth, Cowbridge and Llantwit Major libraries.

Roadworks

Temporary traffic controls: Thompson Street, Barry and A4050 Port Road East, Barry.

Vale town-twinning visit to Belgium

TWO representatives of the Vale of Glamorgan Twinning Association (VGTA) visited Mouscron in Belgium earlier this month and were invited to meet members of the recently-formed voluntary Friendship Association.

Committee members Paul Baker and Rodney Care reported: "We were very impressed with the beautiful parks in the town and the facilities provided at the Ecole de Sport which has no less than 14 football pitches, running track, two swimming pools and an equestrian centre.

"A large show of vintage vehicles by the Antwerpse Renault Oldtimer Club, with over 100 vehicles, all beautifully restored, was very interesting. Their chairman, Walter Govers, said that many of his members would like to show their treasured vehicles in the Vale of Glamorgan."

Members of the shooting, golf, rambling and tennis clubs would all like to arrange meetings with clubs in the Vale.

Sunday morning had been taken up with visits to the circus school and the cheese-rolling festival.

The VGTA is arranging a 'Tall Ships' youth voyage for young people of all four twin-towns in June 2012. Email organiser, Peter Coleman at …peter.coleman@36.co.uk)

The association will hold its AGM in the Council Offices, Holton Road at 6pm on Friday, May 6.

PACT meetings

COURT PACT, Scout Hall, Ilminster Street, Barry on May 12, at 7pm.

GIBBONSDOWN PACT, Communities First Office, Aberaeron Close, Barry on May 21 at 2pm.

DYFAN PACT, Barry Comprehensive School, Port Road on May 24 at 6pm.

ST ATHAN PACT, Old School Building on May 10 at 7.30pm.

PENLLYN Coffee & Chat, Red Fox Public House on May 11 at 11am.

PENDOYLAN Community Council meeting, Pendoylan School on May 12 at 7.45pm.

LLANTWIT MAJOR PACT, Llantwit Major Leisure Centre on May 17 at 7pm.

LLANDOUGH PACT, Llandough Memorial Hall on May 9 at 7pm.

STANWELL PACT, Elfed Avenue United Church on May 10 at 7pm.

CORNERSWELL PACT, Penarth Leisure Centre on May 12 at 7pm.

DINAS POWYS PACT, Bethesda Chapel on May 16 at 7pm.

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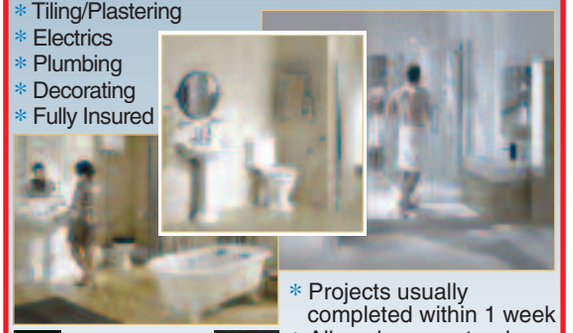

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FIVE YEARS JAIL FOR VALE MEN IN COUNTERFEIT CIGARETTE SCAM

A bid to smuggle 3.6 million counterfeit cigarettes into the UK concealed in a consignment of cheap toys, led to jail sentences for two Vale men last week.

Gerald Courtney and Mark Anthony Rees's plan to flood south Wales with their illicit haul was thwarted when HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) investigation officers overheard them discussing their scam at Cardiff Docks.

The cigarettes had been hidden in a container shipped into the UK via Felixstowe, and were then transported to the city by road.

Rees and Courtney were both sentenced to five years, following an earlier trial at Cardiff Crown Court.

The amount of duty evaded on the cigarettes was £670,000.

Adrian Farley, assistant director, HM Revenue & Customs, said: "Gerald Courtney and Mark Rees thought they were home and dry when their container of counterfeit cigarettes turned up at Cardiff Docks.

"Little did they know that HMRC was watching and waiting.

"Had this smuggling attempt been successful, south Wales would have been flooded by a counterfeit product that would have ripped off unsuspecting customers and undermined honest, law-abiding retailers.

"HMRC will relentlessly pursue those involved in illegal smuggling. Anyone with information can contact our customs hotline on 0800 59 50 00."

The court had heard that Rees, aged 45, of Penmark was a sole trader based at Cardiff Docks. He and Courtney, aged 53, from Rhoose, conspired together to smuggle 3,640,000 counterfeit cigarettes into the UK in October 2009.

The container was shipped from China; its accompanying documentation declared the load to be toys.

On arrival at Felixstowe, officers from the UK Border Agency (UKBA) became suspicious and discovered the cigarettes concealed behind just two rows of boxes containing plastic toy cars.

UKBA referred the case to HMRC for investigation, and the consignment continued on to its Cardiff destination.

Rees and Courtney visited the container at Cardiff Docks and were heard to discuss the consignment.

They were later charged with the evasion of excise duty.

Local soldier Joseph on a tough 'learning curve'

Lance Corporal Joseph Teale.

WHEN Lance Corporal Joseph Teale returns home from Kenya, he'll have more than a few wild tales to tell his family.

For the last month, the 21-year-old section commander has been on Exercise Askari Thunder in the east African country with 1st Battalion The Royal Welsh (Royal Welch Fusiliers).

Training lasts six weeks and is an extended test of soldier skills, stamina and fitness, where soldiers learn how to work with each other, take enemy ground and how to cope with an unexpected attack or ambush.

Joseph, from Brackla, where mum Sian and dad John still live, said: "The experience has been excellent when you weigh it all up. We're learning things all the time and you come out much better prepared."

However, as the soldiers manoeuvre through the levels they not only have get used to free-roaming wildlife in the form of elephants, cheetahs and lions, they have to beat the scorching heat.

"Travelling to places like Kenya is part of your job as a soldier and you get to see so many different things," said Joseph, who serves with D Company and has previously toured Cyprus, Canada and also two tours of Afghanistan.

"Here, it's quite bizarre to see giraffes and elephants just wander up close and the scorpions are massive."

The 1st Royal Welsh is heading up a 1,000-strong battlegroup that includes a company of soldiers from the Kenyan Army. The days are spent conducting intense exercises in temperatures sometimes reaching 50 degrees celsius in a place called Archers Post, more than 250 miles from the capital Nairobi.

Two weeks ago, one soldier suffered a snake bite and the training also had to be halted in parts because herds of ostriches decided to scamper across the range.

He added: "Everything's a learning curve on tours like this but being in Kenya is unique. The temperature has been a real test and it's all part of the training." **RW**

NEWS IN BRIEF

Free concert

THE Rotary Club of Llantwit Major will be hosting a pensioners concert in Llantwit Major Comprehensive School on Saturday, May 7, at 7.30pm.

The club welcomes back the Cwm Garw Male Voice Choir, who have been entertaining audiences at this annual event for many years.

Admittance is free and tickets can be obtained in Llantwit Major from Cloggs Footwear and Gwyneth Morgan Optometrist.

Clairvoyance

CADOXTON Christian Spiritualist Church is holding an evening of clairvoyance with Chris O'Neal on Friday, May 13, doors open 6.30pm to start at 7pm. Admission £2.50. Proceeds towards a new roof.

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COMMUNITIES GET TOGETHER AS...

Royal wedding brings out local party spirit

ACROSS the Vale and Bridgend, people were keen to celebrate the royal wedding of Prince William and Katherine Middleton, ***reports Tim Chapman.***

Some organised local street parties, landlords in towns and rural villages decorated their pubs with union flags and bunting and others held private celebrations.

Although there was an overcast start to the day, by mid-morning the sun was out, and people were able to go ahead confidently with outdoor events.

The White Lion in Ystradowen used the day of the royal wedding to help raise funds for the Breast Cancer Unit at Llandough Hospital.

The pub has been painted pink to maintain the 'breast awareness' theme, and an Elvis impersonator arrived in a pink convertible car with a 'royal' couple in the back, complete with military and wedding dress!

One street party in Barry only made it by the skin of its teeth.

The residents of Lee Road discovered they had not applied in time to the Vale Council for the necessary permission, and Assembly candidate Angela Jones-Evans and local councillor Richard Bertin contacted the council to ensure the street did not miss out on the celebrations.

In Cowbridge, the town council hosted a family event which drew lots of excited children.

At West Farm in Llantwit Major, local residents enjoyed a 'sumptuous' tea, complete with an impressive William and Katherine wedding cake, and enjoyed games afterwards.

The Bush Inn at St Hilary, like many local pubs, put on a tempting spread for villagers, had facepainting and fancy dress for the children, followed by musical entertainment and games.

In the run-up to the wedding, the Vale Council had received requests for just two street party road closures, while the neighbouring Bridgend County Borough Council received six.

However, the actual number of events taking place were harder to quantify, as many streets made use of shared 'village green' areas for their own celebration.

In Porthcawl at the Atlantic Hotel, it was ladies only for a wedding breakfast event that extended on through the afternoon and into the evening, while pubs throughout the borough hosted wedding day themed events.

Meanwhile, the 'official' street parties were all going with a swing, while the unofficial ones were also having a great time.

It was a day when even the most hardened anti-monarchist would have been forced to admire the general good will and community spirit!

This week's GEM is packed with photographs of street parties and wedding day events – and they are still coming in!

There may well be more next week!

Magic of Queen

THE Memorial Hall and Theatre welcomes Magic back to Barry on Thursday, May 12.

Magic will cover Queen hits, including 'Killer Queen', 'Radio Ga Ga' and 'Bohemian Rhapsody'!

For tickets, telephone 01446 738622, or go online at www.memorialhalltheatre.co.uk.

National Eisteddfod could bring a windfall of £6m

THE National Eisteddfod being held in the Vale next year is expected to attract up to 160,000 people and pump £6m into the local economy.

This information was given to members of Llantwit Major Town Council, who invited a delegation from the local organising committee to attend a meeting.

Peter Davies, Glyn Jones and Rosaline Lewis were present.

Mr Davies outlined some of the history of the Eisteddfod, which dates back to the 12th century. He described plans for next year's event which takes place in Llandow.

The meeting heard that the National Eisteddfod last visited the Vale in 1968 and the 2012 event will take place from August 4-11.

Coverage will be broadcast by the BBC and it is their second biggest outside broadcast event – only beaten by Wimbledon.

Mrs Rosaline Lewis gave an explanation about local fundraising and said that the target for Llantwit Major was £42,000.

Coun Gwyn John also explained how the Eisteddfod came to be invited to the area by the Vale Council.

Later in the meeting, the town council agreed to donate £300 towards the Eisteddfod.

Councillor takes over as Vale Show president

LEFT: Mr Edward Rees presenting Coun Jeffrey James (on the right) with his badge of office.

THE committee of the Vale of Glamorgan Show were delighted when Coun Jeffrey James of Rhoose agreed to become the 2011 show president.

Coun James has attended the Vale Show for most of his life. He believes it is a "shop window for the highest quality of Vale farming, but it also reflects the rich community that the rural Vale represents".

Mr and Mrs Terry Griffin of Fonmon, who have organised the horticultural show for many years, were nominated as vice-presidents of the society – no-one could be more deserving of the honour.

Terry has been chairman of the horticultural section for many years, with Maureen as secretary. Both have worked tirelessly, growing the horticultural show into the spectacular event it has become on the show field. They are at present putting together the schedules for this year's horticultural show. Contact Maureen on 01446 711282 for full details.

Other vice-presidents nominated were the Mayor of the Vale and the Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian Council.

The Vale Show will be held on Wednesday, August 10, at Fonmon Castle. Following such an excellent show last year, trade stand applications are flowing in, which bodes well for another excellent show.

Should anyone be interested in attending please email Nicola on vale.show@btinternet.com or look at our web site www.valeofglamorganshow.co.uk

The livestock and horse competition schedules are almost ready. If anyone would like to sponsor a class and receive all the benefits that offers, the society would love to hear from you on 01446 710099.

Highlights at the show this year will include a display in the main ring by The Royal Signals White Helmets motor cycle display team and a display by South Wales Police dogs.

With more than 250 trade stands to browse around, a dog show, livestock and many other events to see, it's a great day out for all the family, so put August 10 in the diary!

NICOLA GIBSON
(Show secretary)

St Cadoc's teddy bears set for the high jump!

ST CADOC'S church (Old Village), Cadoxton, Barry is again holding its famous sponsored teddy bear parachute jump on Sunday, May 29, at 2pm.

Each daredevil bear will undergo a full medical in the state-of-the-art first aid tent prior to the jump to ensure they are fit to fly and on safe landing will be awarded a well deserved certificate of bravery.

Parachutes are provided and there will be a prize for the best dressed child's and adult's bear. So if you have a bear that would dare, sponsor forms are now available from St Cadoc's (Old Village) church, Cadoxton, Barry, or telephone 749689. The event will also include a barbecue and (new this year) a Gruffalo hunt!

Parishioners of St Cadoc's and St Mary's churches take part in the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas child shoebox appeal, and last year were able to send over 600 gift-filled shoeboxes to needy children in eastern Europe.

All proceeds from this event are in aid of the Operation Christmas Child shoebox appeal.

Summer term at Stagecoach begins this week

New students of all ages and abilities are welcome to start now!

Stagecoach delivers the best performance arts training, ensuring each child gets the most out of their experience, by building life skills and confidence while having fun and meeting new friends.

Exciting weekly classes teach children to act, sing and dance in an environment where they thrive. There is so much to look forward to every week and this term promises the same! Every student receives a progress report at terms end, and awards and certificates are presented for long standing achievement.

Other exciting events this term include LAMDA courses, and performances by their Performance Troupe at the Wales Millennium Theatre and Her Majesty's Theatre, London.

Places are limited and fill fast, so act now!

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From Billericay to Barry...

Richard's Gavin and Stacey marathon

ON Friday, May 27, Richard Kell will set off on a Bank Holiday journey with a difference.

As a fan of the cult BBC TV show *Gavin and Stacey*, Richard will recreate the 210 mile journey from Billericay, Essex to Barry Island travelled by the show's leading characters.

Richard will cover the distance on foot, running more than 50 miles a day before finishing on the beach at Barry Island on Bank Holiday Monday (May 30) to raise funds for Help for Heroes.

Having run a number of unique races for the charity in 2010, he was keen to think of a novel way to continue the quest in 2011.

ABOVE: Richard enjoying an ice-cream at Barry Island, where he will end his marathon attempt to raise funds for Help for Heroes.

We are now on Twitter - *you can follow us @gem_news* **Find us on Facebook - just go to** *facebook.com /gemnews*

Vale group calls for volunteer drivers to help

AN organisation which provides community transport in the Vale is appealing for volunteers to train as drivers.

Greenlinks Community Transport needs to expand its volunteer base as it is having a second vehicle.

The group has been operating a 13-seater mini-bus but is now having a seven-seat people carrier as well.

Greenlinks has a membership system and currently has 250 individual members and 30 group members.

Journeys range from taking people for hospital appointments and visits, visiting friends in care homes as well as taking people to social activities and shopping.

The organisation expects that the arrival of the second vehicle will boost demand for its services.

Rob Thomas, head of planning and transportation at the Vale Council, which set the group up, told community and town councils that the success of Greenlinks was dependent on the ability of the council to recruit volunteers to drive both vehicles.

The scheme cannot grow until a sufficiently large volunteer base has been built up.

The council is now seeking to recruit more volunteers drivers to run the service throughout the Rural Vale.

The council is offering free training and those who are successful will obtain a minibus driver awareness scheme certificate, which is a nationally recognised qualification.

Anyone wishing to become a volunteer can contact Graham Cartwright who is the Community Transport Officer on 01446-704870 or e-mail greenlinks@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Why Barry funeral home has life-saving machine

FORMER ambulance man-turned Barry undertaker, Lyndsay Ellis, has revealed why he has installed a defibrillator machine at his King Square funeral home.

The director of Park Independent Funeral Directors explained: "Barry is a very busy town centre and we have seen two cardiac arrests just opposite us outside the library in the last two months alone."

As a former ambulance man, he knows that when someone suffers a cardiac arrest, seconds are vital to save life and ensure a good recovery, and said that having the £1,200 defibrillator at his premises will ensure speedy public access to it for emergencies in the town centre.

"I've even experienced a cardiac arrest during a funeral. We were on our way to the crematorium when the brother of the deceased had a cardiac arrest in the car and needed emergency treatment.

"My goal is for all my staff to be trained in basic CPR, because knowing these things saves time and saves lives.

"After seeing so many incidents in town I approached Bryan Foley of the Barry Ambulance First Responder Scheme and asked what we could do.

"He told me about the scheme and I know some of the big name stores in town who were approached could not keep the defibrillator because of public liability concerns, so I said it could go here," he added.

PENARTH COMPUTER CLUB

Using spreadsheets for fun: 2 - Autoshapes

LAST time, I explained how to set up a tailored grid on an Excel worksheet. It can be used for a variety of purposes, but is quite useful as a background for planning of layouts.

The article is on www.penarthcomputerclub.co.uk under Forum entitled Using Spreadsheets for Fun (1) and a spreadsheet devoted to Autoshapes under Downloads, to get you started.

The next step is to create graphics (picture-models) as representations of the objects to be arranged.

Switch on the Drawing Toolbar by right-clicking on any blank area of any open toolbar and putting a tick alongside the Drawing toolbar on the drop-down list.

The toolbar will appear at the bottom of the window.

Autoshapes can be dragged and dropped onto your grid and manipulated into simple graphics to represent your object. You can make the images as simple or as complex as you wish.

Before you start to worry about all the work, let me assure you that once you have made an object it can be instantly replicated as many times as you like, so you have to construct only one of each. And it gets better.

When you have as many of each as you need, objects can be arranged easily within the layout.

As the objects and the layout are to the same scale, if they will not fit on the screen, they will not fit in real life.

Just like real life, your first layout might not be the best and you might want to try another one or more.

No problem at all. Your first attempt will be on what Excel calls a Worksheet, and you can easily replicate the whole sheet – complete with the grid already made and populated by all the objects made for the first sheet.

Here's how: left-click on the tab at the foot of the sheet.

A miniature sheet appears with the cursor. (You can now drag the sheet sideways to change the order.)

If you hold down the control key as you drag the sheet, you will notice a tiny '+' sign on the miniature sheet.

This indicates that the format and contents of the sheet will be replicated when you release it. You now have a duplicate sheet and can shuffle objects around to try another layout.

Double-click in any tab to edit its name, say, Layout A, and then Layout B and so on until you have settled on the most suitable one and label that one Final, or something similar.

The real benefit of this is that you can instantly return to an earlier layout for comparison to remind yourself of the points it brought out and why you tried something else. And how hard you have worked!

Do play with Autoshapes. They are incredibly versatile, useful and really great fun.

We next meet on Tuesday, May 10, at All Saints Lesser Hall at 7.30 pm for 8pm. Making better use of Auto-correction and more about Keyboard shortcuts. Telephone 029 20708439 for more information .

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THE MARKET PLACE

The Market Place launches their garden terrace

New terrace at The Market Place will open up a world of alfresco dining

BUSINESSES like to say they are part of the community, but in the case of the Market Place in Cowbridge that is quite literally true.

You see, the restaurant borders Cowbridge's historic town walls – and the Market Place has been involved in rebuilding the walls in its immediate vicinity so that they blend in with the recent refurbishment that has taken place around the Old Hall Gardens.

In fact, now that Peter and Tim Marriott have created their own garden terrace, you can reach out and touch those walls as you relax in the sheltered oasis that will offer the best in al fresco dining.

It is two years since Peter and Tim took over the Market Place, with Tim as the proprietary chef and his father Peter assisting in the business side of the venture, and the garden terrace was in their plans from day one.

However, it was first necessary to build a reputation and a solid client base, and Tim's cuisine skills have taken care of that. Having worked in a number of acclaimed restaurants in London, Tim's vision was to offer that sort of wide-ranging imaginative menu, but with a reputation for offering value for money.

That aim has been achieved, with customers travelling from Cardiff, Swansea and some are now coming from Bristol, as well visitors and tourists to the area, and the Market Place's many customers from the Vale.

The garden terrace will offer all of these diners the chance to enjoy fine food in an idyllic summer setting.

Massive glass doors have been installed and, when the weather allows, the garden restaurant will open out onto the terrace, which is bordered by topiary enclosures.

Tim believes that it will be a perfect place for people to drop in for late morning coffee or afternoon or early evening drinks – as well as for lunch and evening meals.

When I visited the garden terrace, I was struck by how peaceful it was. The high thick walls keep traffic noise out completely, and it feels like a stately courtyard in a country mansion.

Fresh pappardelle with courgette, asparagus, wild mushrooms and Pecorino cheese

SUNDAY LUNCH MENU

(Sample)

STARTERS

Soup of the day with garlic granary croutons £4.50
Chicken, pork knuckle and Parma ham terrine with house piccalilli £5.75
Tiger prawn, smoked mackerel, cream cheese mousse with smoked salmon and herb toast £5.95
Asparagus tartlet with goats cheese and sundried tomato £5.75
Seared scallops with truffle scented pea puree, black pudding and Parmesan £6.95

~

MAINS

Roast sirloin of beef, Yorkshire pudding, roast potatoes, swede puree, horseradish cream £11.95
Boned and rolled welsh lamb with roast potatoes and vegetables with mint sauce £11.95
Succulent pork belly, roast potatoes, swede puree and vegetables, apple compote £11.95
Loin of cod with Welsh rarebit crust, garlic mash potato, sprouting broccoli and cream mustard sauce £13.95
Fresh tomato risotto, char grilled courgettes and asparagus £10.95
Fish of the day, crushed new potatoes, spring greens and salsa verde £14.95

~

DESSERTS

Hazelnut brownie with vanilla ice cream and chocolate sauce £4.75
Bitter chocolate and golden coffee cheese cake, macerated fruits, banana cream £4.75
Amaretti and rhubarb crème brulee with almond shortbread biscuits £4.75
A selection of cheeses with homemade chutney, grapes and biscuits £6.25
A selection of ice creams and sorbets with tuilles £3.25

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The Market Place for exquisite al fresco dining

THE MARKET PLACE

Introducing the Garden Wine Bar . . .

ANOTHER development nearing completion has been to convert the upstairs bar area into an intimate, relaxing wine bar designed in keeping with the period aspects of the building. The Garden Wine Bar will be offering bin ends wine from the restaurant wine list at very attractive prices.

For instance, a bottle that was £15 during its time on the menu will be available in the wine bar for around £9.95 or by the glass, and there will also be a choice of quality wines, a selection of terrace cocktails and new range of beers of the world.

The Garden Wine Bar will have another advantage of course, a fine view over old Cowbridge, and from a unique viewpoint.

Peter Marriott told The GEM that considerable time, care and investment had been expended in achieving a development that will enhance the existing wonderful historic building, while providing the new cutting edge terrace and garden wine bar facilities.

"We see it as an investment in Cowbridge as well as investing in our own business. I do not believe that business in Cowbridge should rely solely on the town to bring in customers. We need to offer something extra to bring in more!"

However, the best setting in the world will not prosper if the food disappoints, and Tim and his team will be carrying on the good work, with mouth watering items on the menu such as a terrine of smoke salmon, tiger prawns, smoked mackerel, cream cheese and caper dressing, or char-grilled calves liver and bacon with mustard mash and onion jus – and those are just on the Early Early Supper set menu! (£10.95, two course, 6.00 pm - 6.55 pm, Tuesday - Friday).

There is a fixed price lunch menu every day, two courses for £12.95 and three courses for £15.95) and you can also choose from the terrace dishes such as main course crispy duck and rocket salad with parmesan and truffle oil at £7.95 or indeed mozzarella, tomato and pesto gourmet burger with hand cut chips at £9.75.

Move on to the a la carte menu and there are plenty of dishes that excite, whether it be the roasted rump of lamb with feta and sundried tomato dauphinoise potato, tapenade and seasonal greens or Rosemary braised pork belly with mustard, herbs and liver sausage, mash potato and crackling.

So, The Market Place is now offering fine al fresco dining and new intimate garden wine bar in a tranquil and civilised setting. The fine weather arrived early this year, so Peter and Tim, in particular, have a good reason for hoping it continues.

Golden glazed bitter chocolate cheesecake with summer fruits and ice cream

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Bridgend Rotarians take young carers for a great day out at the Amelia Trust Farm

BRIDGEND Rotarians recently sponsored 11 young carers (aged 8 to 13) from Bridgend borough on a day out at The Amelia Farm Trust.

"These amazing young people each have extreme responsibility, often accompanied by trauma, yet on their day out were the kindest group of children you could wish for, with respect for each other and those around them.

"It was really great to see them behave as children for the day, and Bridgend Rotarians hope they had great fun, and look forward to taking them again, and hosting their Christmas parties."

The photos show them 'playing' and enjoying their activities.

TG

BARRY CAMERA CLUB CELEBRATES THE LAST SNAPS OF THE SEASON

BARRY Camera Club's last monthly competition of the season took place on Friday, April 29 and was adjudicated by Kevin Thomas, who has enjoyed his numerous visits to our club over the years and was once again made very welcome.

Kevin is very knowledgeable in the world of photography and has gained an FRPS and an MA in photography, so we felt in very safe hands. He commented on the wide range of subject matter and enjoyed perusing them, and deciding on the following winners:

In the monochrome print category, in third place was by *Low Tide Ravenglas* by Rob Owens. Second place was shared by *First Light* and *Watching*, both by Brian Trego, who has consistently shown his skill during this season's competition, achieving some very good scores.

The first place went to *Stradbally Strand* by Rob Owens – a scenic beach across which can be seen a captivating sky.

In the colour print category, third place was shared by four images – *Old Barn Door* by Kathy Edwards, *Norwegian Church* by Frank Cleland, *Tuscan Farmstead* by Barbra Archdale-Smith and *Cheeky Ladies* by Hugh Winnan.

Second place was also shared by four images, *Llyn Cynwch 2* by Rob Owens, *Abandoned* by Brian Trego, *River Deep Mountain High* by Allan Preece and *Kiosk Meeting Place* by Barbra Archdale-Smith.

The winner was *Captain And Ship* by Mac Britton – an innovative title for this image of an Arab and his camel.

In the projected images category, in joint third place were *Floating Away* by Ceri Ford and *Hanging On* by Frank Cleland. In second place was *Zap Cat* by Frank Cleland.

The winner was *All The Kings Horses* by Hugh Winnan – colour is the dominant ingredient in this image.

This time around we have seen some new faces in first, second and third places – well done. Virginia Kolmar entered a monochrome image of Tenby on a still, but dull day. It was entitled *Tranquil* and was Virginia's first foray into a club competition.

Rob Owens kindly gave Kevin Thomas a vote of thanks to round off the evening.

Barry Camera Club meets every Friday evening from 7pm-9.30pm between September and May at St Francis Millennium Centre, Porth-y-Castell, Barry Garden Suburb, Barry. New members are always welcome to attend with no obligation to join.

Barbra Archdale-Smith

Jack (8) plays in special London concert

AN eight-year-old schoolboy from Barry will take part in a mass concert by 100 pianists later this month.

International pianist Lang Lang will lead them at the Royal Festival Hall in London, as part of the 'Lang Lang Inspires' series of concerts.

Jack Ollier, who attends All Saints Church in Wales Primary school in Barry, was selected from hundreds of other keen young pianists from all over the UK.

Music by Beethoven, Schubert and Wagner has been specially arranged for the youngsters, who will play on 50 grand pianos.

Jack, who also plays descant recorder, clarinet and drums, said he was "very excited" to be part of the project.

His mother, Jo Weaving, who is also his teacher, said: "It is an amazing opportunity for any young musician.

"I am very proud that Jack has been chosen and can't wait to see him on stage."

The excitement doesn't stop there though. Jack took part in the South Glamorgan Festival for Young Musicians at The Cathedral School, in Cardiff over the bank holiday weekend.

He won the gold medal and the Music Direct trophy in the junior piano year-3 class, and the silver medal in the junior woodwind class (years 3–6).

Jack impressed woodwind adjudicator James Stretton so much that he has been invited to perform 'Steam Train Blues' by Christopher Norton, on the descant recorder, at the Festival Gala Concert in United Reform Church, Windsor Place, in Cardiff on Saturday, May 7.

Arming the Few – a question for local historian

PENARTH AVIATION SOCIETY

IT was 71 years ago this July when the Battle of Britain began.

The RAF was ready to defend the country with squadrons of fighter aircraft and the men to fly them – but were our aeroplanes adequately armed with the firepower needed to take on the enemy?

Some modern historians argue that the RAF was not well prepared because the fighters lacked adequate arms.

Mac Tanner who will be speaking to Penarth Aviation Society on Friday, May 6, on the subject, 'Arming for the Battle of Britain – a Vindication', takes a contrary view based on his research which, he says, revealed some surprising and little-known facts.

Penarth Aviation Society meets on the first Friday of every month at 7.45pm in the Penarth Conservative Club. Visitors are welcome.

Further information from the hon secretary, Mr David Ephraim – telephone 01466 721321.

YVONNE THOMAS

COMMUNITY NEWS

ST BRIDES MAJOR

Your local correspondent is *Patricia Bevan-Morgan (01656) 880418*

IT is sad to report the death of Denzil Walters, aged 84, of Craig-yr-Eos Road, Ogmore-by-Sea, after an illness bravely borne.

The funeral will take place in St Bridget's Church on May 6, at 2pm, followed by interment at the churchyard.

FRIENDS of the Heritage Coast will be holding their annual general meeting on May 8 at 2.30pm at the Heritage Coast Centre, Southerndown. All are welcome.

HOW many swallows make a summer?

It has been brought to my notice that swallows were seen near the barn at Crwys Cwtta Farm, St Brides Major, on April 15.

On checking my nature notes, I found that swallows were seen in Dunraven gardens on the morning of April 13, 2009.

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D668.

- **£2,000:** 897053.
- **The rollover, which now stands at £1,500, was not won this week.**
- **£10:** 3 4 4 5 2 8 , 668302, 100192, 511175, 593748, 479108, 458391, 436584, 482553, 919028, 379764, 587501, 438820, 845629, 590622, 542475, 573835, 630142, 380059, 338434.
- **£5:** 189821, 791759, 773780, 572616, 776221, 915308, 348361, 187666, 887407, 462383, 782976, 448792, 343872, 638586, 443489, 751138, 261906, 293581, 778070, 337179, 495773, 580733, 839070, 550607, 923419, 833836, 878572, 222284, 236433, 257155, 635751, 896941, 631944, 387577, 964327, 198960, 673848, 750917, 436576, 651551, 800788, 890476, 441778, 265229, 713927, 542308, 494733, 524966, 509879, 862859, 345715, 489641, 654002, 176031, 603359, 888520, 225745, 121504, 743576, 516870.

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GLAMORGAN PONY CLUB'S ANNUAL PRESENTATION TO AWARD WINNERS

A host of winners were recognised at the awards ceremony.

Riders who passed the BHS Riding and Road Safety examinations

GLAMORGAN Pony Club held their fifth annual presentation and AGM at the Bonvilston Reading Rooms recently.

The club president, Mr Mike Gibbon MFH, welcomed everyone and introduced the new district commissioner, Annie Whitehouse, and assistant Sian Dix.

Annie started by going through what we had been doing throughout the year, including rallies, camps, competitions, training and exams.

She especially mentioned members who had passed their Pony Club riding and road safety exams; Jess Tidely and Megan Allman, and the following who also went on to pass the BHS road rider exam: Bethan Allman, Ellie Dix, Lauren Hooper, Louise Edwards, and Bethany Jarvis.

Tetrathlon team manager Phil Thomas gave a brief talk on the sport and thanked our current tetrathletes for their efforts; Becky Thomas, Genevieve Kirk, Victoria Shaw, Ela and Sanant Callow.

Mike introduced the speaker, Mr Jackie Thomas, joint master of the Glamorgan Hunt.

Jackie entertained us with an informative talk on hunting and encouraged more of our members to hunt with him next season.

Jackie then went on to present certificates to acknowledge the efforts of members. These were – For enthusiasm and improvement: Beth Crockford, Owen John, Brannwen Clay and Grace Gardner; .

For representing Glamorgan Pony Club at the area quiz – Bethany Jarvis, Adam Dix, Ellie Medlicott and Tom Brinn (team second), Jess Tidley, Ellie Dix, Evie Vaughan-Jones and Gemma Brinn (Team fourth), Rose Lubin, Alice Pembridge, Maisie Beech and Nonni Medlicott (team sixth).

Most improved rider, Nina Revera

Best attendance over 12, Ellie Dix

Best tack and turn out, Chloe Watkins

Best attendance under 12, Josie Dix

Area dressage – Nonni Medlicott (Novice), Alice Pembridge, Jess Tidley and Bethany Jarvis (Intermediate – team fourth) and Emma Lockwood (Open – fourth).

Area eventing – (Pre-Novice) Ellie Medlicott (first), Evie Vaughan-Jones (fifth), (Novice) Bethany Jarvis, Alice Pembridge and Ellie Dix, (Intermediate) Jess Tidley.

Area show jumping - Novice: Ellie Dix, Ellie Medlicott, Alice Pembridge and Bethany Jarvis (Team first and second in tack and turnout). Intermediate, Jess Tidley.

Also, our team of show jumpers (Bethany Jarvis, Alice Pembridge, Ellie Dix and Ellie Medlicott) who went on to represent the club at the national Pony Club championships in Cheshire; they were not placed but enjoyed the experience and came sixth in the tack and turnout.

Jackie then presented our cups:

12 and under attendance went to Josie Dix, Over 12 attendance, Ellie Dix.

12 and under tack and turnout, Emily Reynolds

Over 12 tack and turnout, Chloe Watkins.

Most improved rider, Nina Revera, Tippy Toes Cup for representing the Pony Club the most times was shared between Alice Pembridge and Bethany Jarvis.

The evening was closed with a word of thanks from Annie to all members, coaches, parents and grandparents for their support and help throughout the year.

Recent news is that Genevieve Kirk finished third in the area tetrathlon and had the best run – well done.

Also, we are very proud that Bethan Allman and Bethany Jarvis passed their B test.

We meet every Wednesday at Spring Meadows in Llandow for coaching from lead rein, right up to B test plus standard – please come along to see what we do if you are interested in joining.

In the school holidays, we hold all day rallies every Tuesday in various places from local venues to Leyland Court.

If you are interested, please contact Annie Whitehouse on 01656 862307. **JJ**

Bridgend and Vale councils to collaborate in enforcing car parking restrictions...

BRIDGEND and Vale of Glamorgan Councils are collaborating over plans to take on civil enforcement of parking.

Both councils are preparing applications to the Welsh Assembly Government to be designated civil enforcement areas. This would give them the power to enforce parking restrictions by employing their own council wardens. The police have not enforced parking restrictions since January 1.

Miles Punter, head of Visible Services for the Vale, said that the Vale cabinet had approved an application to WAG to be submitted later this year once a review of parking restrictions had been completed. If WAG approves the application, the council would be able to employ wardens from the start of the 2012 financial year in April.

He went on: " The council is currently working on this project with Bridgend County Borough Council, which is also submitting an application to WAG for civil enforcement powers.

"It is hoped that this partnership approach will provide reduce set-up and operational costs and improvements in the quality of the enforcement services that will ultimately be provided."

A spokesman for Bridgend said that civil enforcement powers for car parking is one of the areas being looked at as part of the Memorandum of Understanding between BCBC and the Vale Council.

This memorandum allows both councils to examine ways in which services to residents can be improved through close partnership working on joint projects.

The statement added: "A report on the possibility of undertaking civil enforcement powers for car parking is being prepared and will be discussed at a future meeting of cabinet."

Remembering the Great War Of 1914-1918 at Fortress Wales 20111

DURING the May Bank Holiday weekend, several members of the south Wales branch of the Western Front Association took part in the annual Fortress Wales event held at Margam Park.

Members of the public had lots of questions to ask at theWestern Front Association's display.

Over the course of two days, visitors were able to see re-enactment displays which covered a multitude of periods, from the Roman era right through to the Falklands Campaign.

Barry members Paul Kemp, Alun Robertson and Jonathan Hicks staged an indoor static display of artefacts, memorabilia and militaria associated with the Great War.

"We had an excellent response from the hundreds of people who visited our display," said Jonathan Hicks.

"People of all ages were genuinely interested in all of the items we had on show. As usual, our free family history research service was inundated with requests from relatives who wanted to know what their family members had done during the Great War.

"As a headmaster, it was also heartening to me to see the enthusiasm for the period from youngsters.

"Despite what one reads in the press, there is a genuine love of history amongst schoolchildren – it is an extremely popular GCSE option subject in many schools in south Wales – and this was reflected on the day.

"We were also pleased by the knowledge that the youngsters had of the period. Good teaching is getting the message across!

"On display were collections of medals, plaques and badges, many of them associated with the three Welsh regiments, plus uniforms, weapons and kit of not just the British Army, but this year the French Army as well.

"Our display on the attack on Mametz Wood aroused great interest and left people with a sombre feeling for the sacrifice made. We felt at the end of the two days that we had fulfilled our organisation's aim of 'Remembering' and look forward to participating again next year."

The next event for the branch will be Armed Forces Day in the grounds of Cardiff Castle in June.

Jonathan Hicks's new crime novel 'The Dead of Mametz', which is set in Barry in 1916, is to be published by the Welsh Books Council in May. Copies can be ordered now through booksellers or Amazon.

He will be signing copies of his new novel at Barry Library at midday on Saturday May 21.

LET US ENTERTAIN YOU

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A 60 minute live musical and storytelling treat, with lots of fun, singing and music for the under 5's

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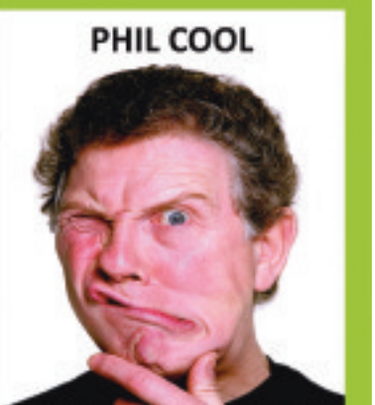

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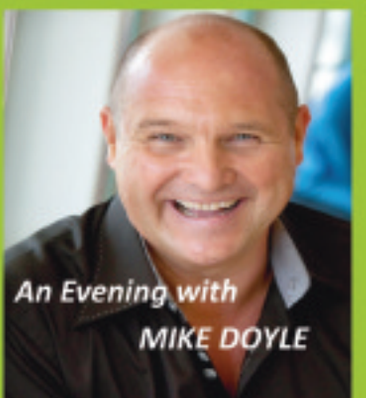

GLAM GIGGLES

Comedy Club @ the Memo

Thursday 26 May - TOM DEACON (Radio1 DJ) & support
Thursday 30 June - GARETH RICHARDS & support
Thursday 28 July - FERGUS CRAIG & support

8.00pm • Tickets £7.00 (or £15 for all three gigs!)

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Dyffryn Gardens puts on its very best face – and offers a warm welcome to Vale visitors

IN recent years, a great deal of renovation work has taken place at Dyffryn Gardens, and an early spring event, designed to let people have a good look around, was blessed with warm weather.

Local photographer Paul Jones popped in to have a look around, and found many families enjoying the pristine gardens in the sunshine, and staff and volunteers willing to help with any questions from visitors.

"There were activities for the children, including crafts and face-painting and everyone seemed to be thoroughly enjoying the occasion," he reported.

Photographs by Paul Jones
www.valeevents.co.uk

ABOVE: Meeting a friendly lion!

PENARTH AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS

Walkers take a stroll in the sun through 'waterfall country' around Neath

SUNSHINE surrounded the 10 walkers, who included leader Clive, as they journeyed down to the Neath Valley for a trip around what is commonly known as 'waterfall country'.

The area around Pontneddfechan is one of the few places around the world where sandstone has been worked in underground mines.

Parking near the Angel Inn, the group set off through a gate beside the towering Black Rock and walked the left bank of the Nedd Fechan River with its small waterfalls tumbling beneath trees in leaf after the long winter months.

The first waterfall they encountered was Sgwd Gwladys or the Lady Falls, formed by water flowing over sandstone.

Walking upstream, the group came to the Horseshoe fall, aptly named by its shape, and surrounded by oak trees, and then the Ddwli falls that are composed of upper and lower waterfalls.

A break between the falls.

Tramping along the undulating river bank they reached Pont Melin-fach and crossing the bridge, a short piece of road-walking followed before they joined a pathway and tree-lined gorges to the Afon Mellte River.

The next falls were Sgwd Clun-gwyn, or White Meadow, and Sgwd yr Eira or Fall of Snow, on the Afon Hepste River.

They left the valley and continued down through woodland at Cilhepste fach and Cilhepste cerig to reach Dinas Rock, or Craig y Ddinas, meaning Fortress Rock, a favourite with rock climbers.

The group headed downstream and another small bridge led to a road back to Pontneddfechan.

On May 7, meet at 8.30am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a 9.5-mile mod/hard walk in the Malvern Hills; contact Phil on 01446 711533.

On May 8, meet at 9am at Cogan for a 9-mile moderate circular walk from Skenfrith to Garway Hill; contact Nick on 01446 420540.

On May 12, the first summer evening walk will leave All Saints Church, Park Road, Barry at 7pm promptly, for a four-mile easy tramp at Porthkerry; contact Val W on 01446 734925.

Rucksack badges, programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2021 9102.

JOY STRANGWARD

LAFARGE CEMENT UK
ABERTHAW WORKS

PUBLIC EXHIBITION DATES

We are holding two public information exhibitions to present our plans to use two additional waste-derived fuels in the cement-making operation at Aberthaw Works.

If you would like to find out more, please come along to one of our exhibitions. Members of the Works team will be on hand to answer any questions you have.

FRIDAY 20th MAY 5.00 pm - 7.00 pm
CELTIC WAY COMMUNITY CENTRE,
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SATURDAY 21st MAY 10.00 am - 12.00 noon
ST ATHAN COMMUNITY CENTRE,
GLYNDWR AVENUE, CF62 4PP

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AN INSPIRATIONAL MAN OF BARRY WHO WAS ONE OF THE LOST GENERATION

Local military historian and Headteacher of St Cyres Comprehensive School, Dr Jonathan Hicks, tells the story of another man's sacrifice during the First World War.

Dr Jonathan Hicks.

Second Lieutenant Timothy Davies Williams.

RIGHT: Varennes Cemetery.

ABOVE: Williams as history master.

ABOVE: His headstone in Varennes Cemetery.

ON Sunday, April 7, a telegram was delivered to Eleanor Louisa Williams at 3 Kingsland Road, Canton in Cardiff, where she was staying with a friend.

The telegram read: Deeply regret 2nd Lt T D Williams RGA 248 Siege Battery died of wounds fifth. The Army Council expresses sympathy.

Eleanor Williams had lost her husband of nearly nine years; Barry County School had lost one of its most inspirational teachers.

Timothy Davies Williams was born in Hawden le West, County Durham on July 25, 1883. His father Charles was from Mold in Flintshire and was working as a coal miner in Durham, though he later took Holy Orders. His father died when Timothy was only seven years old and the family moved to Caio in Carmarthenshire.

Educated at Llandilo County School, where he became a pupil teacher in 1901, he was then admitted to University College, Aberystwyth where he graduated with an honours degree in history in 1906 and then taught for two years in Bridgwater.

In August 1909, he married Louisa, as she preferred to be known, at Caio Church. That year he was also appointed history master at Barry County School and the couple moved to a house on Tynewydd Road in Barry named 'Vesta'.

He enlisted in April 1916, aged 32, having served with the 5th Battalion of the South Wales Borderers as a volunteer prior to the war. He was appointed to the 2nd Field Company of the Glamorgan Royal Engineers as a sapper and was stationed in Britain until August 1917. In March 1917, he applied for admission to an Officer Cadet Unit to train for a commission.

He obtained his commission and was gazetted 2nd Lieutenant with the Royal Garrison Artillery on 4 August 1917. Williams served in France and Flanders from the following September, taking part in much severe fighting.

Williams was wounded during the Kaiserschlacht, the German Spring Offensive, at the Battle of Bapaume in 1918. He had been in an observation post, spotting for the battery's guns, when he was hit, probably by shellfire. He died of his wounds on April 5, 1918, aged 34, at Number 37 Field Ambulance, west of Albert.

His battery commander wrote to Louisa: "It was dear old Williams to whom I went many a time for advice in many of the difficult situations in which we found ourselves, and on one occasion it was entirely through acting on his advice, and without orders from my Commanding Officer, that I got the battery away before our retreat was cut off. Also, on the morning of 21st March, when we came in for the full share of the battle, I called for volunteers to man the guns.

"Your husband and another officer immediately went out and did most useful work under intense shellfire, and by their coolness and devotion to duty set a splendid example to their men.

"I can only repeat from the fullness of my heart, that the battery has lost one of the very best officers it has ever had, and that I have lost one of the very best friends and a brother officer. We all deemed it an honour to know your husband. He always made everything brighter for those with whom he worked and he could always be relied upon to do more than his share."

He had seen fierce fighting in Flanders during his first months abroad and had come through the German offensive unscathed up to April 5.

He had already won the praise and commendation of his superior officers for his calmness in the stress of the attack, and for the skill with which he had performed the work entrusted to him.

Another fellow officer paid tribute: "He had done magnificent work at the front and will be sorely missed by the officers of his battery, who often found his advice invaluable and who regarded him with peculiar affection and respect. His splendid courage and coolness in danger were an inspiration alike to officers and men."

The local press paid a glowing tribute to him as well: *"Mr Williams' death is a loss, not only to Barry, but to Wales. For nearly seven years he was history master in the County School at Barry and while there he did a work which cannot be too highly praised.*

"As a teacher of history he was unsurpassed in the County Schools of Wales, and his pupils owe him a debt of gratitude which they can never express or repay.

"Not only had he a conception of history such as is rarely found, but he also possessed the power of imparting that conception to others. Nor are the successes of his pupils the only way in which Mr Williams' work is to be judged.

"His keen intellect, his ready wit, his power of inspiration which it would be difficult to surpass, have left their impression upon hundreds of boys and girls who have obtained no academic distinction, but who will contribute a richer share to the life of the State because of their contact with a great and noble personality.

"Mr Williams' pupils, colleagues, and friends would be unwilling to let this moment pass without expressing their deepest sympathy with his widow, and at the same time attempting some appreciation, inadequate as it must be, of a work which will live after its author.

"Although he was but 34 years of age, he had lived his life fully and well, and he died as he had lived, fighting as he had always fought, against injustice and wrong, giving, as he had always given, freely and unsparingly, his best to the community in which he lived. His was indeed a life without fear and without reproach."

Timothy Davies Williams was buried in Varennes British Cemetery which is north-west of Albert. On his headstone Louisa had the following touching words inscribed: 'Remembering you I will be brave and strong'.

He is commemorated on the Barry County School Memorial which now hangs near the foyer of Barry Comprehensive School, and on the Roll of Honour in Barry Memorial Hall.

His name is on the Caio Memorial and a brass plaque was dedicated to him at Caio Church, Carmarthenshire. It was unveiled by Major Edgar Jones MA OBE, the Headmaster of Barry County School.

One of the lost generation killed during the Great War: an inspirational teacher, an intellectual and a leader of men.

• *Jonathan Hicks's new crime novel 'The Dead of Mametz', part of which is set in Barry in 1916, is being published by the Welsh Books Council this month Copies can be ordered now through booksellers or Amazon.*

He will be signing copies of his new novel at Barry Library at midday on Saturday, May 21.

Community rallies to a funds-hit youth project

COMMUNITY volunteers at the Drop In Centre on Thompson Street estate, Barry, have worked hard to keep the work of the CYPIC project (Children and Young People in the Community) going following a disappointing result to a recent funding application.

The community has rallied round to keep open the popular Friday Night Club, football club and a range of other activities by taking on the work while alternative options for funding can be found.

During the Easter holidays, volunteers held a number of events at the local Castleland Community Centre that included: an Easter Bonnet competition, pool tournament, an arts and crafts competition as well as several sporting events that saw young people playing five-a-side football, cricket and touch and tag rugby.

Coach Matthew Dee had also introduced exercise and fitness sessions as part of the project's health and well being programme.

With loyal support from more than eighty young people, the hard work was more than worthwhile! The community has also received a promise of support from Newydd Housing Association, the estate landlords who have agreed to fund a tutor for body art and make up sessions for the girls as well as a second hand pool table to allow the club to enter the local league.

The Drop In Centre manager and the CYPIC project's lead volunteer are meeting with the Vale of Glamorgan's principal youth officer next week to explore ways in which appropriate funding can be identified to take the project forward.

Eileen Moore, the Drop In Centre manager, explained: "This is truly what community work is about.

Whilst we still need funding and the support of paid workers for the long term, I am so proud to be part of a community that is willing to put itself out to support us.

"A special thank you must go to our regular young people volunteers Gareth, Geraint, Joshua and Callum who helped the grown ups to set up and run our holiday events!"

"Thanks to everyone for their continued support and, hopefully we will be successful in our efforts to keep the CYPIC project going for the future."

GEM ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

In Business Update

Anastasia adds a finishing touch

ANASTASIA Beads first opened its doors in May 2009, specialising in the supply of world-wide beads and findings to the jewellery-making public.

Situated at 8, High Street, in Barry, Anastasia's has gone from strength-to-strength.

The shop takes great pride in having taught many Barry residents the art of jewellery making and design, and having helped to add that unique finishing touch to that special occasion outfit.

With the high demand for bespoke jewellery, fascinators and jewellery repairs, Anastasia's are proud to announce the opening of their second shop at 5 Windsor Arcade in Penarth.

The new shop will continue to offer their unique bespoke jewellery and fascinator design for that special outfit, as well as their adult and children's classes and parties.

The new shop opened its doors on May 3 and at the same time, Anastasia's has become the official stockist for Pilgrim jewellery – both at Barry and Penarth.

The Windsor Arcade already houses some of the area's best bespoke shops and Anastasia's feel it is the perfect home for their second outlet.

Anastasia Beads
BARRY • PENARTH
Are pleased to announce the opening of our second shop at the Windsor Arcade in Penarth.
To celebrate we are offering a
20% discount on all our handmade jewellery, beads and findings
until 11th May 2011 on presentation of this voucher
We sell high quality beads from around the world, offer a bespoke jewellery service, jewellery making classes for adults and children and jewellery repairs and alterations.
5 Windsor Arcade, Windsor Road, Penarth CF64 1JA
02920 708493. Open 9.30am - 5pm Mon - Sat.
www.anastasiabeads.co.uk

'As Soon As Concierge' opens in Llantwit Major

AS Soon as Concierge, a Lifestyle and PA service, has been established by mother-of-two, Katy Williams in Llantwit Major.

Katy said: "There never seems to be enough hours in the day to do all the things that need to be done, so I want to offer a helping hand.

"We take on the tasks which take up so much valuable time, such as personal assistant duties, errands service, the to-do list, home-minding, party planning and clutter busting.

"We can source your tradespeople, do your shopping and organise pet care.

"Let us give you the Gift of Time!"

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Lifestyle Management & PA Services tailored to suit your needs
Are you finding it difficult to juggle work, family, day-to-day tasks, or do you have trouble getting out of the house?
Let us know your requirements and we'll take care of the rest.
GIVING YOU THE GIFT OF TIME
Tel: 07739 908458
www.as-soon-as.com

Why all herbal medicines will be registered

Many people may have seen in the news that new legislation came into force on May 1 which requires medicinal herbal products to be registered.

Nicky Foster of Health Conscious in Llantwit Major explained: "As a consumer, you will find that most products will remain on the shelves until the old stock is used up and then new registered products will replace them. Many products are already registered.

"The most noticeable difference that you will see is that these registered products will now carry an indication, allowing you to see easily what the product is for, and information on how to use the product safely."

4, The Precinct, Llantwit Major
- Organic Foods
- Natural Baby Care
- Natural Skincare
- Organic Home Care
- Vitamins & Supplements
- Sports Supplements
- Natural Products
- Healthy Snacks

Health Conscious
01446 795 121
www.healthconscious.org.uk

Time to plan ahead with PASSMORES – *make a 'Lasting Power of Attorney'*

LAWYERS around Wales and Englandare running a national 'Make a Lasting Power of Attorney' campaign to encourage all people to plan ahead to avoid problems if they later lose mental capacity.

It means making a Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) on the new version of the forms, which came into force in October 2009.

A Lasting Power of Attorney is a legal document that enables one person to make decisions on behalf of another.

There are two types of LPA: financial and welfare. Financial LPAs enables a person to act on behalf of another if, for example, they are ill or disabled and cannot act for themselves.

A welfare LPA enables a person to act on behalf of another if that person does not have the mental capacity to act for themselves, for example, in the case of a severe stroke.

Without an LPA, it may be necessary for family members to apply to the Court of Protection for authority. This can be a distressing and lengthy process and is far more expensive than making an LPA.

Once all parties have signed the LPA, they must then be registered with the Office of the Public Guardian before they can be used.

Carli Evans of Passmores Solicitors and a member of Solicitors for the Elderly is actively encouraging all people to plan ahead and make Lasting Powers of Attorneys.

People wishing to discuss their requirements should contact Carli Evans to arrange a suitable no obligation appointment on 01446 721000 or by email ce@passmores.com

PASSMORES
PASSMORES SOLICITORS
MAKE AN LPA NOW
– Can you afford not to?
Can you imagine a situation where you or a member of your family is no longer able to make decisions? Frightening isn't it?
A Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) is a legal document, that enables one person to make decisions on behalf of another.
Carli Evans, a member of Solicitors for the Elderly is inviting you to attend a no obligation appointment to find out more.
For more information please call:
Carli Evans on 01446 721000
or by email ce@passmores.com.
SOLICITORS FOR THE ELDERLY
21 Tynewydd Road, Barry, CF62 8HB

PENARTH'S ORIGINAL PET-GARDEN STORE – home grown veg now in stock!

CAPUS is the original family pet shop and has been on the same site for 110 years, since 1901.

We cater for all your animal needs and stock all the leading brands of dog and cat food including Burns, James Wellbeloved and Pedigree.

We believe we have the largest stock of birdseed and rabbit food and accessories in the area.

We are also your local garden supplier, with the best quality bedding plants, compost and all kinds of feeds and weed killers.

Capus also has a bespoke selection of bird tables, for any kind of garden or patio.

Please come and visit us for a look around.

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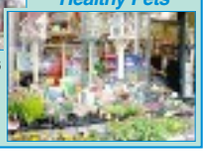
Britannia Buildings
8-9 Glebe Street,
Penarth CF64 1ED
02920 707046

Vale Women's Business Network

Looking after body, mind and soul

THIS month, in addition to Karma networking, there'll be taster sessions with a renowned meditation expert, plus an Indian head massage and a facial, manicure, or pedicure.

Mel Webb, owner of Karma Beauty, has also kindly offered to provide goody bags and prizes for a lovely raffle.

Places are strictly limited, so please contact Rebecca quickly to book for this event at members@vwbn.org.uk

For more information on the benefits of networking and joining the VWBN, contact HYPERLINK "mailto:members@vwbn.org.uk" members@vwbn.org.uk

We look forward to welcoming you to our supportive and friendly network soon.

Vale Women's Business Network
Body, Mind & Soul
Investing in you is the first step towards investing in your business. So, why not join us for an evening of pure indulgence.
Wednesday 18th May at Karma Beauty Cowbridge (above Curves) 6.30 - 9pm
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"Eat a small amount of good quality, ideally organic, meat and let the veg be the star of the show.

"It also makes good economic sense. A steak supper for six is likely to be painful on the wallet; a beef stir fry packed with vegetables is not."

Riverford has devised a fortnight's worth of meals that embrace the meat and 10 veg philosophy.

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Out and About with The GEM

Four friends to go on a sleep walk for Ty Hafan

Left to right: Jemma King, Liz Rawlins, Nina Huggett (bride-to-be), Bethan Crompton and Catherine Nicholas.

A GROUP of long-time friends will join the Ty Hafan Midnight Sleep Walk in Cardiff on Saturday, May 13, as a way to celebrate four birthdays and a forthcoming wedding!

"We have four birthdays to celebrate around the time of the event so we thought it would be a great excuse to get together while supporting a fantastic charity at the same time", explained Liz Rawlins who will turn 24 a few days before the event.

"Plus with one of us getting married later in the summer, it's a perfect chance for us to have a practice girls' night out!"

One of those taking part is Jemma King, who has a five-year-old disabled son called Cameron, and-knows first-hand how hard it can be to wake every few hours throughout the night, but still have to get on with things the next day.

"Although Cameron has never needed the high level of care Ty Hafan offers children and their families, I can completely sympathise with mums whose children have been diagnosed with a life-limiting condition who need 24/7 care", said Jemma.

"If giving up a just a few hours sleep means that we can help Ty Hafan offer mothers the care and support they need to get a well-earned extra few hours sleep, we can't think of a better way to spend our night, or a better reason to walk those 8 miles!"

Anyone wishing to take part in the Cardiff, Swansea or Severn Bridge Midnight Sleep Walks can register at www.midnightsleepwalk.co.uk or contact 029 2067 2065.

MARVEL COMICS' LATEST OUTING IS THOR-SOME!

SCREEN TALK

by GARETH JAMIESON

SINCE the success of *Iron Man* in 2008, Marvel have been confident enough to bring as many of their comic-book heroes to the big screen as possible.

While contractual obligations mean that the *X-Men* and *Spiderman* are absent from their plans (though both will be returning to cinemas),with the likes of *Captain America,* a third *Iron Man* outing and the superhero team-up of *The Avengers* all due, it's the turn of one of their lesser-known heroes to take centre stage.

Thor tells the story of the titular character (played by Chris Hemsworth), an Asgaardian warrior cast out by his father Odin (Anthony Hopkins) to earth.

As he learns about his new surroundings, thanks to Jane Foster (Natalie Portman), he soon finds himself facing his brother Loki (Tom Hiddleston) who plans to unleash all manner of evil in order to take the throne of Asgaard for his own nefarious plans...

While comic book movies have become all the rage in recent times, it is the choice of director for these films that has been most impressive.

Opting to go for substantial storytelling as much as spectacle, the likes of Chris Nolan, Bryan Singer and Sam Raimi have all moved from serious fare to comic spectacle and emerged unscathed at the other.

None other than Kenneth Branagh is the latest to join this gang, and he too will be able to hold his head high come the roll of the end credits – his take on *Thor* a thrilling spectacle of a film that will entertain and impress throughout.

While Branagh's hiring may have caused some consternation, it is pretty much forgotten once the film kicks in. He marshals the action set-pieces with a quiet confidence, never going too over the top and grounding the action within the film.

His affinity with Mr Shakespeare also comes to the fore, the narrative spilling over with familial angst and troublesome father-son relationships that allow Branagh's bard knowledge to come in very handy.

Similarly, there is a lightness of touch prevalent with the likes of *Iron Man* that means while things are prone to getting serious, there are plenty of lighter moments to keep the viewer engaged.

This ability to switch between the dramatic and comedic is typified by Chris Hemsworth's wonderful turn as the titular hero.

Perhaps best known as Captain Kirk's father in the reboot of the *Star Trek* franchise in 2009, Hemsworth grabs the opportunity with both hands here.

He shows a flair for muscle-bound heroics as well as strong comedic timing with some cracking one-liners, the screenplay and his performance wringing the most out of the 'fish out of water' situation.

The performances around him are all strong, with Tom Hiddleston mainlining manipulative mischief as Loki, Natalie Portman carrying off the love interest role with easy style, while Anthony Hopkins and Stellan Skarsgard offer gravitas in their roles.

Most entertaining is Kat Dennings as Portman's assistant, whose snarky wit deserves a greater chunk of the screen time.

While it has avoided the pitfall of *Iron Man 2* in terms of doubling as a trailer for forthcoming Marvel outings (save for a cameo appearance from a certain Avenger and a post-credit sequence that sets up that film), even with a run time of nearly two hours it feels a little condensed at times.

There is so much to fit in that some characters are short-changed, while the story cannot afford the space needed to really make the characters sing.

That being said, *Thor* is still a spritely effort that maintains Marvel's march on cinemas, to be continued later this summer with *Captain America* – and his Asgaardian counterpart has certainly laid down the marker.

VERDICT: A superb introduction to a previously unknown character, *Thor* is a wonderful slice of comic book entertainment, thanks in no small part to Kenneth Branagh's smart direction and a raft of pleasing turns.

While this may be the Asgaardian's first big screen outing, it certainly won't be his last. *Recommended.*

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Iron Man, The Lord of the Rings trilogy.*

Conservation and magic combine – *for a great stamp prize!*

ROYAL MAIL is offering a double treat for readers in the latest stamp competition – with the chance to win not one, but two, special stamp prizes.

The two sets of stamps are celebratory issues – one for the 50th anniversary of the World Wildlife Fund, featuring African elephants, a Siberian tiger and an Iberian lynx.

The second special commemorative issue is Magical Realms, featuring eight wizard and explorer stamps, including Merlin and Voldemort.

Magical Realms is a combination of film imagery and newly commissioned work featuring the myths and legends of King Arthur (Merlin and Morgan le Fay), the Narnia stories of CS Lewis (Aslan and The White Witch), JK Rowling's Harry Potter series (Dumbledore and Lord Voldemort) and two characters from Sir Terry Pratchett's Discworld (Rincewind and Nanny Ogg).

To win a combined set of Magical Realms and WWF stamps in special presentation packs, simply answer the following question:

Which of these is not a wizard in Harry Potter?

A .Paul Daniels
B. Voldermort
C. Dumbledore?

Answers on a postcard to Stamp Competition, Glamorgan GEM, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL, no later than Friday, May 13.

Watch out for the next Royal Mail competition when we give readers the chance to win a commemorative presentation set of the Royal Wedding stamps featuring Prince William and his new bride Catherine Middleton.

Last coffee

THE Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian, Coun Len Taylor, invites the public to support his final coffee morning this coming Saturday, May 7, from 10.30am to 12.30pm in the Mayor's Parlour.

All proceeds will go to top up his chosen charity, Cowbridge Comp 2010, and he is expecting a young harpist from the comprehensive school to be performing in the council chamber during the morning.

Blood donors

THE Welsh Blood Service will be holding donor sessions in the area this month.

May 22 (10am-4pm) and May 23 (10am-6pm) - Cowbridge Leisure Centre, The Broadshoard, Cowbridge .

May 24 (10am-6pm) - Bedwas Hall, Memorial Hall, Gladstone Road, Barry.

May 31 (11.15am-1.45pm & 3.15-7pm) - Mobile Donation Clinic, Sainsbury Store, Y Dderwen, Bridgend.

(To attend this session it is advisable to make an appointment as these donors will take priority. Please call 01443 622193 or e-mail donor.appointments@wales.nhs.uk to make one).

May 31 (10am-6pm) - Highlight Community Centre, Stirling Road, Barry.

To view a comprehensive list of all blood donation sessions, visit www.welshblood.org.uk or call 0800 252266.

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8-Page Special

Friday 29th April 2011

William & Kate

Royal Wedding souvenir

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Chris Ash Sarah Ash

"Never forget during the chaos of your day to say, I love you."

- MET ON MATCH IN 2006 AND STILL GOING STRONG -

Love, laughter and cheers marked a glorious Royal Wedding day that began with a journey from London's Goring Hotel for beautiful bride Kate Middleton and ended in a celebration and waves to the crowd from the balcony at Buckingham Palace

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"Tell each other you love each other every day. Rock on!"

• MET ON MATCH IN 2009 AND NOW PLANNING THEIR WEDDING •

The happiness and joy of their Big Day is clear to see on the faces of Prince William and Kate as they return to Buckingham Palace in an open-top carriage as man and wife

Day of love and joy sealed with kisses

Not one, but two kisses sealed the most romantic day of the year. As William and Kate appeared on the Palace balcony, crowds surged forward to watch the new Duke and Duchess of Cambridge share their love with millions of people across the world.

The weather may have been grey, but the mood was bright from the start as 1,900 guests, including Sir Elton John, David and Victoria Beckham and Prime Minister David Cameron, filtered into the maple tree filled splendour of Westminster Abbey, where scenes of excited chatter were already being broadcast to royal fans.

Prince William and brother Prince Harry arrived right on time in a shiny, burgundy chauffeur-driven Bentley, exuding an air of suppressed excitement before heading into St Edmund's chapel to await the royal bride. An hour later, like a modern day Grace Kelly, the future Queen of England, Kate Middleton, 29, stepped out of her Rolls-Royce Phantom with father Michael, in a Fifties-style ivory gown with lace applique floral detail, designed by Sarah Burton at Alexander McQueen. Kate's glossy brown hair was covered with a romantic veil held in place by a delicate tiara and her confident, classic style choice instantly confirmed her place as the nation's sweetheart.

As Kate reached the altar, where Archbishop Rowan Williams met the couple, Prince William couldn't contain his happiness and the world watched as he whispered the words Kate had been waiting to hear: "You look beautiful".

While the bride remained composed, only flashing that trademark smile occasionally, the 28-year-old Prince was unable to contain his joy as smile after smile spread across his face.

Yet, once seated in the open-top carriage the Duchess of Cambridge, the newest member of the royal family, began to beam with happiness. The sun came out for the royal couple and sitting in their magical State Landau they were greeted by screams of joy from thrilled fans, as they travelled another mile on a romantic journey that began at St Andrews University eight years ago.

Just over an hour later, Kate and William stepped on to the royal balcony at Buckingham Palace looking very relaxed, surrounded by their families. Like William's parents Prince Charles and Lady Di-ana 30 years ago, the couple were happy to respond to an ecstatic public, crying out for a public display of affection.

But once they'd sealed their love, and the traditional fly past of a Spitfire and other aircraft had taken place, Kate was concerned about one flower girl who clearly found it all rather too noisy. Looking at William, she gestured to the little girl with an intimate, loving smile.

Surely another addition to the royal household is just a matter of time.

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• MET ON MATCH IN 2009 AND NOW PLANNING THEIR WEDDING •

Moment world had waited for

Royal bride Kate Middleton arrives at Westminster Abbey to marry her future king, looking stunning in a diamond tiara and fairytale wedding dress and veil that she had kept a secret from the world for so long

Inset: Prince William, in full military uniform, waves as he arrives with his brother Prince Harry at the Abbey. Right: Kate's sister Pippa with bridesmaids and pageboys

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The joy and love of Prince William and his bride Kate Middleton is shared by all in the splendour of Westminster Abbey. Royals, politicians, stars, family and friends watched the couple exchange vows in front of the Archbishop of Canterbury. They were joined by an estimated two billion TV viewers around the world.

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• MET ON MATCH IN 2010 AND WERE MARRIED IN FEBRUARY •

Prince Charles takes a look around as he sits with the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and the Duchess of Cornwall

Kate's mother Carole with her son James and other family guests

By Royal invite

Politicians joined royalty, stars, businessmen and the couple's closest friends for the historic ceremony inside Westminster Abbey watched by the world

David Cameron and wife Samantha chat with Nick Clegg and wife Miriam as Chancellor George Osborne and his wife Frances look on

David and Samantha arrive for the service

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Princess Eugenie and Princess Beatrice arrive in eye-catching outfits

Princess Anne smiles as she arrives to cheers from the crowd outside

Zara Phillips in a silver outfit and striking black hat greets guests

Earl Spencer chats with guests before the service begins

Sir Elton John arrives for the service and below David Beckham, wearing his OBE, with wife Victoria

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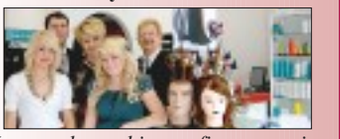

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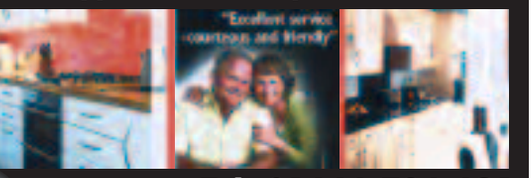

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Posing with the 'happy couple'!

CHILDREN, families and staff at Ty Hafan got together the day before the actual royal w.edding to stage their own event, complete with bride and groom look-alikes, bridesmaids, bunting and a special party and disco afterwards.

Beth Morgan, who is in charge of the care team at Ty Hafan, said: "Everyone had a fabulous time and the children absolutely loved it.

"The staff worked really hard to make everything as authentic as possible – even down to the cake.

"Just as with all the parties going on up and down the country, it brought people together for this special day and everyone here at Ty Hafan sends their very best wishes to the happy couple"

RIGHT: Chef Julia McCarthy puts the finishing touches to the magnificent cake.

ABOVE: As you can see from this picture, the celebrations for the royal wedding encompassed all ages, with it being the first one in memory for many youngsters!

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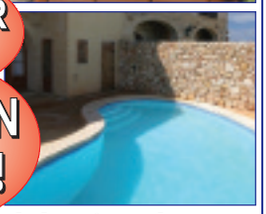

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Cowbridge's 'indoor' street party is a big hit with local residents on royal wedding day!

COWBRIDGE with Llanblethian Town Council took the decision some weeks ago to organise an 'indoor street party' in the town hall for royal wedding day.

It meant that local residents didn't need to worry about the weather, and there was no paperwork for road closures to worry about.

The event proved really popular with familiies, and parents were able to let their children enjoy themselves with no concerns about anyone getting lost!

There was a fancy dress competition, a talent contest, and plenty of food to enjoy!

PHOTOGRAPHS by MIKE WILCOCK

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Royal party events go with a swing

Last Friday afternoon, the West Street and West End of Llantwit Major enjoyed a very jolly royal wedding 'street party' in the paddock behind West Farm.

Residents with ages ranging from 90 to toddlers partook of a sumptuous home made tea and tucked in to a lovely 'wedding cake', followed by races and games.

Many thanks to the enthusiastic band of people who cut grass, cleaned barns, strung lights and bunting, and carted furniture, organised games and activities - and those who cleaned up afterwards! It was great to see so much community spirit.

HEATHER MARCH

Heather gets ready to serve the hungry party-goers!

Party time at West Farm, Llantwit Major.

The White Lion, Ystradowen.

Facepainting in Aberthin.

Photographs on this page by Paul Jones, Andy Wicks and Eileen Bennett. For more pictures, please go to...
www.valeevents.co.uk

Llantwit Town Council *news in brief*

GRANTS of £25 have been made by Llantwit Major Town Council to the Samaritans, and Cruse Bereavement Care,

THE council has decided against renewing its membership of One Voice Wales, which gives advice to local councils. Members felt that they received few benefits from membership.

THE town council has approved the payment of £178,000 to Morrison Construction for work carried out on the Boverton Road regeneration scheme.

THE council has waived the fee for hiring the old school to the census co-ordinator for Llantwit.

AN application from Llantwit Major Rugby Club for permission to use the recreation field as a campsite during next year's National Eisteddfod has been rejected by the council.

NO bookings are to be taken for the Heritage Centre at the Town Hall on Saturdays and Sundays over the summer, so that it can be opened on a regular basis to the public.

The Heritage Centre is run by the Llantwit Major Historical and Heritage Society.

THE Llantwit Major Town Council has been told that its objections to the reduction in the number of councillors from 15 to 14 are too late as the new arrangements came into place last June.

The council was consulted in May 2008 about the proposed review and the final recommendations were published in September 2009.

THE town council is to save more than £700 by switching to a different waste collection service.

The Vale Council, which has collected the council's waste in the past, wanted £2,607 to renew the contract for the year, but Biffa Waste Services quoted £1,924 and their price has been accepted.

APPLICANTS for grants to Llantwit Major Town Council could have to wait for 11 months before having a decision.

The council has decided to deal with grant aid at its January meeting. Any applications which come in after that will be deferred to the following January.

It is unclear what will happen to urgent requests for help.

THE hire fees for buildings hired by the local committee of the National Eisteddfod will be waived by Llantwit Major Town Council.

The local committee has to raise more than £40,000 and has said that if hire charges have to be met, some events being planned would be unviable. Coun Russell Downe moved that the charges be waived and this was agreed unanimously.

THE Llantwit Major Town Council has renewed its sponsorship of the Friends of the Glamorgan Heritage Coast. They pay £25 a year.

THE cost of relocating the zip wire at the older children's playground in Llantwit Major has been estimated at £2,000 plus £400 VAT.

Coun Sally Bagstaff reported that contractors had put the zip wire into its new location for tests and these had been carried out by a Vale environmental health officer. Coun Bagstaff said that she had received a verbal report that the new location should not cause any nuisance to householders but it was agreed to get the report in writing before making any decision.

A REQUEST from Transition Llantwit for permission to locate two sealed water butts to gather water run-off from the Llantonian Hall has been deferred by the town council until they have completed their year as tenants of land by the side of the hall.

The group has established a garden there and wish to grow vegetables but have a problem in getting water for the plants.

Coun Keith Geary said that the council would review their decision when the year was up in July. This was agreed.

THE Lorna Hughes Park in Llantwit is to be nominated for inclusion in a national Queen Elizabeth the Second Challenge. If it meets the criteria, the park will be protected against any development for posterity. Only sport and recreational purposes will be permitted although it will remain in the ownership of the town council who will carry out day to day maintenance.

A STONE mason has been brought in by the Vale Council to rebuild or renovate 85 stone stiles in the communities of Llantwit Major, Wick and St Donat's.

This is part of a scheme to preserve the stone stiles in the western Vale. Kissing gates are to be installed alongside some of the stiles where possible. Funding of the work has been provided by the Welsh Assembly Government.

THE Great Poppy Party being organised to celebrate the 90th birthday of the Royal British Legion will be held at a different time in Llantwit Major to the rest of the country.

The event will be held to coincide with the Victorian fair this summer when more people are in town and where the prospect of raising most money is possible.

A 1940s event will be staged that night at the rugby club.

Pop-up cards no longer a mystery!

LLANMAES WI

THE speaker at the April meeting was Jan Waskett, one of Llanmaes WI's most gifted members, and some of her hobbies are embroidering, sewing and card craft.

We were very lucky to spend the evening learning how to create a very special pop-up card which could be decorated for a celebration.

We were given two pieces of coloured paper, followed by a demonstration on how to fold this paper.

This was tricky, but Jan very patiently showed us individually how this was done).

We then glued the folded paper together, next we were given two pieces of card and two pieces of ribbon.

The ribbon we were to glue to the back of the front card (this would help close the card when it was finished).

Then we glued the pieces of card to the top and bottom of the pop up paper.

We were now given lots of pretty papers and stickers, saying 'Happy Birthday' and silver and gold flowers to personalise our cards, then gathered the ribbons together and made a pretty bow.

President Jan Jones thanked the speaker for an entertaining evening. The speaker for the May meeting is Jeff Collins from the Red Cross.

RW

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DINAS EARN WIN OVER BLUEBIRDS

Welsh League Division Two

Dinas Powys	**3**
Abertillery Bluebirds	**2**

WITH three straight wins behind them, Dinas went into this game with plenty of confidence and it showed in the first half with what was probably their best football of the season so far.

The home side started this game at a high tempo passing the ball around with pace and accuracy, but it was the visitors who had the first attempts on goal, with centre-half Adam Bishop heading straight at keeper Dave Burnett and Lee Bancroft firing over from long range.

Mike Hayward and Callum McKenzie were getting room and time in midfield and when Hayward got a return pass from Ricki Morgan, he crossed the ball into the area, but Oli Dalton's shot was just over the crossbar.

A minute later Dinas took the lead when a ball out of defence was headed down by Barrie Gunstone for Oli Dalton, who immediately returned the ball to Gunstone in space to hit a right foot shot from fifteen yards to score.

The Bluebirds hit back within a minute, hitting the crossbar and applying pressure on the Dinas defence, but it was the home side who looked the more dangerous.

When Ricki Morgan played an excellent ball from half-way for Mark Dunford, he quickly moved into the box and crossed; the ball deflected behind for an unproductive corner.

Barrie Gunstone was the focal point of many of the Dinas attacks and following another good move on the right he cut into the area to play the ball back for Mark Dunford.

His shot cannoned off the bar and back out and with a defender controlling the ball with his hand, the referee immediately pointed to the spot and Dunford made no mistake for the second goal.

Dinas continued to play with confidence in the remainder of the first-half and had chances to increase their lead when another Dunford shot was tipped over the bar by Ryan Wookey in the Bluebirds goal, and Dalton had a header saved by the keeper.

Dinas continued the second-half as they had played in the first, and after just two minutes a Mike Hayward free-kick was misjudged by the keeper, who allowed it to bounce over his head and onto the crossbar.

The ball fell to Morgan who immediately played it back to Dunford whose cross was deflected for a corner.

Then came the best move of the game started in the Dinas half involving Hayward and Gunstone, whose final ball gave Dunford the chance to score from twelve yards with a low shot to give Dinas what looked to be an unassailable three goal lead.

Seemingly down and out, the Bluebirds showed tremendous spirit and a few minutes later got a goal back when the Dinas defence allowed Michael Vagg too much room in the six yard box and he made no mistake to finish off a thirty-five yard free-kick.

The Bluebirds started to gain more possession, Jake Evans having a shot saved by the keeper, and when the Dinas defence allowed Lee Bancroft room, his shot was deflected for a corner.

Five minutes from the end Dinas hit the bar for the third time in the match.

Gunstone and Dunford had once again beaten the visitors' defence, and it was Gunstone who should have done better with a relatively simple chance.

A couple of minutes from time, the Bluebirds had the final say in the match when a good cross to the far post saw Lee Bancroft sneak in to score with a close range header.

Squad: Dave Burnett, Rhodri Foote, Ben Dimond, Mike Haywood, Stephen Provis, Jon Carpentier, Ricki Morgan, Callum McKenzie, Mark Dunford, Barrie Gunstone, Oli Dalton. Subs: Rhys Davies, Amanj Hassan, Joe Briscombe, Danny Street. **MW**

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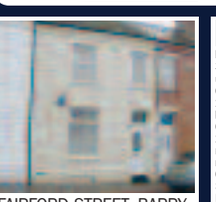

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ECO-WARRIORS SWOT UP ON RECYCLING TO STAGE AN ALL SAINTS FASHION SHOW

Year-6 pupils at All Saints Church in Wales Primary School are serious eco-warriors.

They have been studying materials during science lessons and decided to link this to an innovative recycling programme. They sought advice from the Marine Conservation Society and worked with Atlantic College to carry out a litter survey.

They discussed a number of issues, including the banning of plastic bags.

A discussion about how to encourage re-use of materials led to the idea of a recycling fashion show. All the pupils took part, choosing their own roles as designers, models, hosts and organisers.

They planned and carried out the whole event independently and invited the rest of the school to attend. The designs were amazing, with every outfit produced from recycled materials and the models were definitely future cat-walk potential.

Their teacher, Sue Thomas, was "very proud" of the way the whole class worked as a team to stage this fantastic event.

NM

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Family Notices

Rhodri PHILLIPS

Sylvia would like to thank family and friends for their tremendous support and help at this sad time. Thanks to all those who attended the service and for all the cards and messages of condolence. Thanks also to Canon Belcher and Andrew of Thomas Brothers Funeral Services for the great kindness shown.

GARRETT
(nee Cridland)
Avril Rose

Passed away peacefully on Sunday April 24.

Adored and loving mother of Karen and Michael, devoted Nana of Hywel, Geraint and William, mother-in-law and friend of Bleddyn and Claire, cherished sister of John, Jennifer, Winston, David, Norman, Chris and the late Harry. She will be deeply missed and treasured forever by family and friends. Funeral Thursday May 5, service 2pm at Tabernacle Presbyterian Church, Methodist Lane, Llantwit Major followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 3.15pm. No flowers by request, donations in lieu if desired to Marie Curie Hospice, Bridgeman Road, Penarth.

Joy HANCOCK
BOVERTON

Will be dearly missed by Glenville, Vernon, Jackie, Hilary, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Funeral service will take place at St Illtyd's Church, Llantwit major on the 12th May, 2011 at 2pm. Donations only, in aid of Cancer research.

IN MEMORIAM

Edward Charles MALLETT
5th May, 2010

Always in our thoughts and never forgotten.
Love always,
Pat, Caroline & Su
x x x

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Birthdays

Happy 11th Birthday
JOE BAKER
on 5th May, 2011

Have a Great Birthday.
Lots of Love, Hugs and Kisses,
Mum, Dad, Abigail and all the family.
x x x

Happy 18th Birthday on May 10th
Emma Griffiths

Love from Mum, Dad and Ryan. XXX

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Take notice that the above department has received the following application under the above Act from Ms Jill James for West Farm, Southerndown, Bridgend, Vale of Glamorgan, CF32 0PY to be a premise approved as a venue for Marriage and Civil Partnership Ceremonies.

This application and associated plans are available for public inspection between 9.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m., Monday to Friday at the Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU.

Any person wishing to object to the grant of this approval should write to the above address giving reasons for their objection within 21 days of the date of publication of this notice.

Peter H Evans
Director of Legal, Public Protection & Housing Services

Hysbysir drwy hyn fod yr adran a enwir uchod wedi derbyn y cais canlynol o dan y Ddeddf uchod gan Ms Jill James ar gyfer West Farm, Southerndown, Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr, Bro Morgannwg CF32 0PY i fod yn safle cymeradwy ar gyfer cynnal Seremoniau Priodas a Phartneriaeth Sifil.

Gall aelodau'r cyhoedd weld manylion y cais ar cyntiuniau cysylltiedig rhwng 9.00a.m. a 4.00p.m., o ddydd Llun i ddydd Gwener yn y Swyddfeydd Dinesig, Heol Holton, Y Barri CF63 4RU.

Os ydych chi'n dymuno gwrthwynebu'r cais hwn, dylech anfon gwrthwynebiad ysgrifenedig yn cynnwys rheesymau i'r cyfeiriad uchod cyn pen 21 diwrnod ar ôl cyhoeddi'r hysbysiad hwn.

Peter H Evans
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Llantwit Cavs in action over bank holiday

ON the May bank holiday Saturday, Llantwit Major Cavaliers First XI, skippered by new captain James Snelson, played away at Newport Fugitives, a club two leagues above them, in the first round of the Welsh cup.

Losing the toss, in very blustery conditions, they batted first and made 247 for 5, with a majestic first First XI Century for Sam Pickford (116), with other notable scores from Jake McNaughton (43 not out) and Mark Coldwell (31).

Newport Fugitives replied with 248 for 7, winning the game in the 44th over courtesy of an unbeaten eighth wicket partnership from Matthew Evans (87 not out) and Rhydian James (24 not out). Ben Jenkins (3 for 39) and Jono Cheal (2 for 41) were the most successful Cavs bowlers.

On the Sunday, the Cavs travelled to Barry Wanderers, with a predominantly Second XI, skippered by new captain Dave Russell.

The Wanderers won the toss and batted first ,making 221 for 9 with a belting innings from A Hughes (87), with Dan Bowles (36) and P Webb (25) making notable contributions.

There were good bowling performances from Adrian Ashton (3 for 27), Dave Cheal (2 for 27) and Alex Harris (2 for 38).

The Cavs replied with 166 for 6 with Mark Coldwell (51), Phil Vincent (35) and Mark Dowling (25) all making useful contributions against some fine bowling from all the Barry Wanderers bowlers, with Hissan (3 for 34) being the most successful.

Next, the Cavs entertained Machen in their first ever game in the Glamorgan and Monmouthshire Sunday league.

New Sunday league skipper, Mark Coldwell, won the toss and inserted Machen, who managed to score 134 off 34 overs after being in trouble at 69 for 6 after 24 overs.

G Harris (29 no) was top scorer with useful contributions from M Hatton (26) and G Jones (23).

Best bowling came from Dave Cheal (3 for 27) and Jono Cheal (2 for 19).

After another fine tea, the Cavs set about the run chase and looked in a good position at 51 for 1 before eventually collapsing to 112 all out in the 27th over.

Best batting came from Jono Cheal (46) with ten fours and Mark Coldwell (22), with G Harris (3 for 19), L Bisnal (3 for 24) and G Jones (3 for 44) being the successful Machen bowlers.

The Cavs would like to thank their sponsors Brewin Dolphin, Engineering Services (Bridgend) Ltd, Simon's Plaice and Coast Tapas Bar for their sponsorship of the club.

The Cavs start off their first ever campaigns in their respective first divisions of the Welsh club conference next week, with the first XI away at Pentwyn and the second XI home to Dinas Powys.

The Sunday XI have a bye in the G and M league.

DC

Pumas are on course for great double!

BARRY Pumas played their penultimate league game on Sunday, where only a win would do if they were to keep up the hunt to become Lazarou Sunday League Division Three champions.

The opponents were Fitz Lifts FC, and Pumas started well.

They got the first goal when a cross found Ben Weekley, who netted from close range.

Pumas seemed to relax too much and a few minutes later Fitz Lifts drew level.

In the second half, Pumas always looked the most likely team to get the winner, and this came after Scott Christopherato was brought down in the box to give Pumas a penalty.

Captain Spencer Lamb stepped up to score, for a final score of 2–1.

The previous Sunday, Pumas were involved in the Division Three cup final against Arriva Trains FC.

Pumas got the first goal when they were awarded a penalty which Lamb scored to keep up his 100 per cent record. Pumas were again 1–1 at half time, when Arriva equalised from close range after a goalmouth scramble.

Pumas got the winner in the second half when Callum Taylor guided the ball into the net from an Anthony Partridge cross.

So Pumas won the cup, and if they beat Legal and General this week, the league title will be theirs too.

MORGAN STEPHENS

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Otto and Jack win at golf championships

THE south Wales boys' golf association recently held its annual open stroke and match play championships at Wenvoe Castle Golf Club on April 26–28.

Sixty-six players qualified from a total entry running into three figures, with handicaps ranging from scratch to no higher than five.

Qualifiers were from all parts of Wales, and there were a number of entries from England (some of whom, the watching national selectors noted, had Welsh credentials!)

The 36 hole stroke play championship was won by Otto Mand from Dewstow Golf Club.

The top 16 from the stroke play then played for the match play championship, and this was won by Jack Bush of Morlais Castle, Merthyr Tydfil.

The overall standard of play was exemplary on a course in beautiful condition but which was set up to challenge the players' shot making; on the evidence of the three days of play, the future of Welsh golf looks assured!

The organisers wish to thank Wenvoe Castle Golf Club for its superb hosting of the event.

DC

BARRY ATHLETIC BOWLERS BEAT PENCOED IN CUP

BARRY Athletic Bowls Club cleared their first Carruthers Shield qualifying hurdle with an emphatic win at Pencoed on Saturday.

In a one-way contest, the Athletic ran out winners by an impressive 55 shots with a 111-56 scoreline.

The big win was achieved thanks to two runaway victories for skips Glyn Thomas and Chris Blake.

Glyn's rink, featuring John Donovan, Paul Webley and Kristian Harris, registered a 36-11 success that included a six, five and three fours.

Chris obliged with a 33-9 score in a rink that comprised Dave Snelling, Richard Cowling and Geoff Whittaker.

Club captain Robert Horgan had a 24-18 win, while Dean Rees' squad tied 18-18 after trailing 2-12 early in the game, to complete a fine comeback.

The Athletic's 'A' side found the going tough against a strong Penarth team in a friendly at Barry Island.

Penarth had comfortable wins on three rinks and it was left to skip Ivor Stevenson to prevent a whitewash. His rink, with Mike Vaughan back bowling after a season's lay-off, were 24 -19 winners.

On Saturday, the second team entertain Barry Plastics at Barry Island in another friendly. The first team resume Carruthers Shield action at Cadoxton on May 14.

Scores: Barry Athletic – J Donovan, P Webley, K Harris, G Thomas 36-11; D Snelling, R Cowling, G Whittaker, C Blake 33-9; S McKernan, D Jones, C Wright, R Horgan 24-18; J Beanland, DK Williams, B Parrish, D Rees 18-18.

South Wales Senior League Division One

CWMBACH WELFARE 4
CADOXTON BARRY FC 1

Results cost Cadoxton Barry dear

TERRITORIALLY Cadoxton Barry (CB) matched their hosts for much of the game, but two defensive lapses in concentration and an unfortunate own goal proved to be their undoing, and at the end of the day there can be no complaints.

The lofty pitch had steep slopes running away on two sides - often delaying the return of the ball when it went out of play.

The first half was end to end with both sides looking more likely to concede from errors than quality play. A delay in shooting when in control of the ball saw CB dispossessed for Cwm to attack down the left.

In came a fierce cross that saw Walsh stretching to intercept - an interception that unfortunately redirected the cross high and beyond the reach of 'keeper Norris to drop into the net.

Before that, however, Norris had pulled off a fabulous diving save to deny Cwmbach's Hollidge the conversion of a penalty.

Early in the second half, Murphy headed on a long ball to offer Mills a glorious opportunity, but the ball bounced so high on the hard pitch that he was unable to get his head to it.

Indeed, the pitch went on to give CB a bit of a let off when, with Norris out of position, an on-target shot bounced over the CB bar, when normally it would have entered the net!

It wasn't long before Mills returned the compliment when he set Murphy up for the header that brought the scores back level.

There followed a spell when CB began to look the likely winners as a string of chances came but went begging. Then Cwm launched an attack down the right that, at first, didn't seen to offer any threat, that is until a trio of CB defenders backed off as Cwm lightly danced past statues before sending in a shot from close range which Norris only managed to parry to Ross Williams, who made no mistake with the return.

The same player then scored the best goal of the game with a glancing header from a free kick taken from out to the right. In between, CB chances came and went and there were a couple of good shouts for penalties which weren't awarded.

At this point CB weren't playing badly. But then, for the second time in the match, CB defenders appeared to turn into pillars of salt before they looked back to see a ball in their net for the fourth time.

NW

'AM I BLUE' EARNS FFOS LAS WIN

***Am I Blue,* trained at Kenfig Hill by Mrs Delyth Thomas, landed the Design Office Mares Handicap Hurdle at Ffos Las on Bank Holiday Easter Monday.**

Partnered by 5lb-claiming jockey Peter Carberry, five-year-old *Am I Blue* finished six lengths ahead of *Giovanna* and was returned a 7-2 chance.

It will be remembered that *Am I Blue*, a former inmate of Tim Vaughan's Aberthin yard, made the headlines in the national and local press last September when winning at Hereford after being backed from 25-1 to 5-1. As one race reporter put it: "There was outrage in some quarters and amusement in others."

The national press made much of the fact that prior to *Am I Blue's* astounding win, Mrs Thomas had trained just two winners, but she is no stranger to the winner's enclosure, having saddled more than 100 winners in the sport of Arabian horse racing.

For the record, *Am I Blue's* Hereford win will be one of the stories in my forthcoming book, *The History of Horse Racing in Wales - The Great Scandals & Gambles of the Welsh Turf,* to be published by St David's Press.

Meanwhile, Aberthin's Tim Vaughan also made it a bank holiday to remember. He was successful with *Quedillac* (Sam Thomas) at Ffos Las and also sent out *Free To Air* (J W Farrelly) to win at Plumpton and *Makhzoon* (Aidan Coleman) to score at Fakenham.

KENFIG HILL'S Rhys Flint, riding his father John's *King Of Dubai*, landed the handicap hurdle at Uttoxeter on Saturday.

The six-year-old bay gelding, owned by Mr Brian Jones, made all the running to win by five lengths from *Points Of View* and was well backed at odds of 9–2.

At the Berkeley Point-To-Point Steeplechases at Woodford, Mrs Jodie Pearn's seven-year-old bay gelding *Floridahall*, who is qualified with the Glamorgan Hunt, won the Intermediate race at odds of 6–1.

Floridahall was ridden by Ogmore's Nick Williams and is trained by Pentyrch's Robert Porter.

Tom David, riding Steve Whistance's *Overlut,* won the mixed open race.

You can email your news/views to Brian Lee at leebrian@btinternet.com or phone him on 029 2073 6438.

BRIAN LEE

'Relegation a certainty'

THIS result almost certainly sends Cadoxton Barry (CB) back to the Second Division. The consolation is that, with their resources, they have the capacity to win again next season - the gap between the divisions is that great.

Penydarren 4 - 2 Cadoxton Barry FC

CB have probably shipped at least a third of all goals in the first 10 minutes of the second half this season and again, although the game was scoreless at half time, by the ninth minute of the second half CB were two down.

By the halfway mark it was three, before two great team passing movements were finished off with powerful headers from Mills to give CB hope at 3 – 2. Penydarren looked worried at this stage, but a fourth for them just after Mills' second ensured that a CB comeback wasn't going to happen.

NW

The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Mazda range: Urban 18.0 (15.7) – 56.5 (5.0), Extra Urban 31.0 (9.1) – 76.3 (3.7), Combined 24.6 (11.5) – 67.3 (4.2). CO_2 emissions (g/km) 299 – 110.

SPORTS ARE TOO STRONG FOR THE VETS

Sully Sports B	**6**
Park Vets	**3**

SULLY entertained Park Vets in their last Division Two game.

Within minutes Sully were one up, a shot from Graham was half-saved by the Park keeper, and Jaime Lamb converted from close range.

With the pace of young Kieron Jones, playing alongside Jaime up front, Sully were causing Park Vets problems and soon increased their lead.

The pace of Kieron saw him through one on one and he coolly slotted the ball into the bottom corner.

Sully's defence of Joe McCann, Kevin Ball, Nigel Underdown and Adam Watts were dealing comfortably with the long ball and keeper Ben Gillespie looked in full control between the sticks.

Towards the end of the half, tempers flared and a Park midfielder saw red.

With Sully in control, they increased their lead when a through ball was handled.

The referee let play go on, and a cross from James Greenslade found Liam Hobbs at the back post, who volleyed in from close range.

With the half drawing to a close, the ten men of Park pulled a goal back when a long free kick eluded everyone and went straight in.

Sully made it 4–1 early into the second half when Spencer Lamb was laid off by younger brother Wesley Lamb, who smashed into the top corner.

More chances fell for Sully to increase their lead further, chances they almost came to rue as a crazy five minutes saw Park back in the game.

First an overhead lob couldn't be kept out by Ben Gillespie, followed by a long range effort shortly after that made the score 4–3.

Jaime Lamb slotted the ball in the far corner and reduced panic through the Sully camp, and they made the game completely safe a few minutes later when a short corner saw Jaime Lamb bend a shot, completing his hat-trick, making the final score 6–3 to Sully.

JL

Stags suffer double setback with two 'convincing' defeats

THE Stags of Barry Athletic CC suffered a double setback at the hands of Vale CC and St Fagans with convincing defeats in both matches.

First, the Stags suffered a seven-wicket defeat to newly-promoted Vale CC last Saturday; a match in which the Stags suffered a massive reality check a week prior to the first league game of the new season.

The conditions favoured the batsmen and that assumption was backed up by skipper Nathan Baker, who won the toss and batted first.

Any thought of a positive start from the home side was dashed in the first over. Batsmen Damon Leake (0) and Craig Brock (4), were both back in the shed after being outpaced by the bowling attack. Nathan Baker (8) soon followed after being unluckily caught in the covers.

The Stags were fading fast and needed a partnership urgently, if they were to post a defendable score. Luckily, Ian Gadd (46) and Ashley Baker (48) were on hand to lead the home side out of trouble.

Knocks from Billy Usswald (35) and Simon Phillips (19) proved useful for the Stags but with wickets falling quickly, it wasn't long before the Stags were dismissed for just 190.

After the tea session, the Stags looked impressive in the field. The visitors were struggling to cope with the partnership of Peter Hellyar and Jake Griffett. However, that all-important wicket was still to come and the Stags were losing momentum.

Vale were beginning to find boundaries at regular intervals and the Stags were under increasing pressure as the match wore on. Wickets from Jake Griffett, Steve Jones and Billy Usswald proved to be no more than a stumbling block for the visitors as they raced to a seven-wicket win with 12 overs to spare

Next, the Stags (captained by Andy Ellis) stumbled to a disappointing 77-run defeat by St Fagans, who stunned the crowd by giving Glan Williams and Neil Holmes a starting place against their home club. The sun was beaming down on the ever-popular Barry Oval and the chants to bat first were answered as St Fagans won the toss and chose to bat.

The Stags anticipated a long day's fielding and that proved to be the case, as the home side struggled to contain the visitors. Boundaries were hit all over the place and the game started to get away from the Stags.

Fielding errors were evident all over the field and made the game easier for the visitors, as they raced to 295-5 by the close of the first innings.

In the second innings, the Stags didn't get off to a good start by losing Jonathan Phillips (10), Ashley Baker (8) and Callum Twomey (8) early on in the innings. No-one was able to form a partnership with the in-form Ian Gadd, and the odds of a surprise win were getting slimmer and slimmer.

Gadd kept fighting with some excellent stroke play and produced some fine cricket for the spectators, and the icing was on the cake when he passed the century mark.

The 'Tractor-Boy' referred back to his attacking style of batting for the closing overs and looked impressive until he was stumped for 130 runs in as many deliveries.

The Stags had nothing more to give in terms of excitement, and were bowled out for 218.

The Stags open their 2011 league campaign next weekend and will hope to get a positive start as they hope to challenge for promotion. All of the club's fixtures can be viewed on their official website, www.barryathleticcricketclub.webs.com.

May 7 – Barry 1st XI vs Newbridge CC; Malpas CC vs Barry 2nd XI.

May 8 – Barry 3rd XI vs Creigiau CC.

AB

Minsgill Mans achieves point-to-point history!

***MINSGILL MANS* achieved a piece of point to point history at Cold Harbour near Leominster on Sunday by winning the Welsh Borders Area Classic Race for The Crudwell Cup for the the third time.**

Having won the race in 2007 and 2008, the 13-year-old gelding was an even money favourite.

Quality opposition from *Burntoakboy*, a former Cheltenham Festival winner, and the the useful *Tastes Like More* suggested a competitive race and so it proved.

To attempt to make all over four miles is generally a risky tactic, but in the hands of James Tudor the old warrior responded magnificently by first seeing off the challenge of *Burntoakboy,* and then keeping *Tastes Like More* at bay over the last two fences to get home by a neck.

Minsgill Mans is owned by Cowbridge's Jeffrey and Andrea Bird, along with Andrea's brother Jonathan Tudor and his wife Judith.

Jonathan, who trains the family horse at Merthyr Mawr, commented: "He's a real hero to us and it's remarkable that he still loves his racing at 13. He's now won 13 point to point races including nine Opens out of 25 runs. It was special to complete the family circle having our cousin James on board."

JB

BARRIVALE CLUB NEWS

THE Barrivale AGM was held on Tuesday, April 19 when the retiring committee was, once again, re-elected.

The Bill Shore trophy, for the annual handicap, was presented to Jane Brook.

Afterwards, those present celebrated the club's 24th birthday with a buffet, birthday cake and a teams event.

Results as follows: =1st Judith Owen, Helen Jordan, Irene Thomas and Jane Brook – 26 IMPS; =1st Betty Lewis, Denis Mottram, Mick Green and Mike Close – 26 IMPS.

After splitting the tie, the Alan Garland Trophy was awarded to Judith, Helen, Irene and Jane.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. For more information ring 01446 733425.

Barry under-8s miss out in Abergavenny

ABOVE: Cole Saunders with Newport Gwent Dragon stars Toby Faletau and Jason Tovey.

BARRY RFC under-8s travelled the 100-mile round trip to play in the Abergavenny rugby festival on bank holiday Sunday.

After some fantastic rugby, they finished in second place, scoring 19 tries in four games.

Pontyclun 5 v 3 Barry RFC

IN the first game, Barry started slowly, struggling to get tags and badly passing.

It was a good attacking game from Barry with tries from I Esscot, E Galsworthy and Z Fifield. Defence let them down but in terms of the table it was early days.

Barry 9 v 3 Newbridge

AFTER a good talking to concerning defence, Barry put in a great team display.

They managed to turn the ball over a number of times and some great moves were well finished off.

Tries from C Saunders (3), Z Fifield (3), E Galsworthy (2) and J Reid proved too much for Newbridge. Fifield's second try was a gem, with a fast pick and his pace took him over. D Wall and J Couch showed plenty of unselfish play, opening the Newbridge side up.

Barry 5 v 3 Penceod

GOING into this match, Barry had a very short break of 10 minutes.

E Galsworthy (2) scored two great tries but halfway through the game Barry were trailing 3-2.

Some changes saw substitute C Saunders grab a hat trick in five minutes to give the Vale side victory number two.

D Wall, J Couch, J Roberts C Denbury, T Pugh and R Rendell, to name just a few, worked tirelessly in this game to set up the tries for Galsworthy and Saunders.

Barry 4 v 4 Croesyceiliog

GOING into the final match, a victory or draw would secure second place, but a defeat would see Croesyceiliog take second place.

Croesyceiliog started the match on fire, going two tries up early on. Elen, the only girl in the Barry team, produced a great display of running and pulled a try back straight away.

C Saunders then grabbed two quick tries to put the Barry team 3-2 up. In a very entertaining match, Croesyceiliog drew level before J Roberts converted a great try. Then very late on, Croesyceiliog drew level again. A draw was a fair result, as both teams went for it tooth and nail.

Barry under-8s showed great awareness and team work throughout the festival. The attacking rugby was second to none and the defence improved vastly as the games went on. All players put in a shift to be proud of.

Team: *R Rendell, T Pugh, C Denbury, I Esscot, C Saunders, J Couch, J Roberts, E Galsworthy, Z Fifield, D Wall, J Jones, Elen and J Reid.*

Missing from the team was D Parry Griffiths, who suffered a broken collar bone. All players and coaches wish him well and a speedy return, yet he was still able to be there and support the team. Well done!

LS

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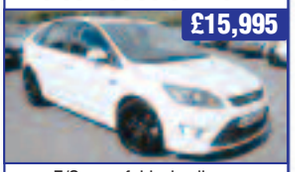

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Dyffryn Croquet Club celebrates its silver jubilee

DYFFRYN Croquet Club will celebrate its 25th anniversary this summer by launching a recruitment drive.

The club plays at Dyffryn Gardens in St Nicholas, and started in July 1986 when 49 members signed up following a demonstration game.

Since then the club has gone from strength to strength, and has won several league titles in the South West Federation.

Club chairman Sue Mackay, a founder member, told The GEM:

"Dyffryn Gardens is a wonderful setting in which to play croquet.

"The game is more complicated than people think. It requires tactical ability and skill rather than strength, but is very different from the game people may have played in their gardens.

"A handicap system means it can be played on equal terms by men and women of all ages."

The club has players from all over south Wales, but is now in need of new blood to ensure it survives well into its second quarter century.

To this end the club will be running two six week courses for beginners, one on a Wednesday evening at 6.30pm (starting on May 11) and one on Thursday afternoons at 1.30pm (starting on May12).

The cost will be £20, but this will be deducted from the cost of club membership for those that decide to join after the course. All equipment is provided, but flat soled shoes must be worn.

All those interested in joining one of these courses should contact either Paul Pristavec (01443 676239) or Sue Mackay (01446 710237).

Further details on the club can be seen at www.dyffryncroquet.org.uk

SM

Windsor firsts launch new season in style

Windsor LTC men's first team launched their season with an impressive win over Newport's Stow Park.

Chasing their third successive promotion the Windsor team, captained by Daniel Hughes, came away with a win by the narrowest of margins, snatching the match by 5-4.

A potent mix of experience and youthful exuberance was the key to victory for the Penarth outfit. The established duo of Jason Richards and Tim Hartland anchored the performance, taking all three rubbers, while Dan Hughes and Dan Ellis, and Tom Cole and Dan James won one rubber each to clinch the victory.

Windsor now go on to face local rivals Penarth Rectory Road in the competitive Premier Two Division.

Windsor men's captain Ian Hughes commented: "This is the best possible start to the season, and will give the team confidence for the tough local derby against Rectory a week Friday. Rectory have also won two successive promotions and the team is eagerly looking forward to the match."

NIGEL GABRIEL

Cowbridge brother and sister's ice hockey success

YOUNG Jake Roberts of Cowbridge Comprehensive School put on an impressive performance at the British national junior ice hockey championships in Hull last weekend.

Jake's team – South West conference under-13s – won the gold medal after a very tough match against Scotland. The match ended in a two-all draw after full time and overtime, and was won 3-2 in a penalty shoot-out.

Jake plays as a forward for Swindon Wildcats under-12s and under-14s ice hockey teams.

Congratulations also to Jake's sister, Bryony Roberts, also of Cowbridge Comprehensive, who helped south of England under-16s girls ice hockey team to a convincing 3-1 victory over North of England in Sheffield on Easter Monday.

Bryony was selected to attend the under-16s girls School of Excellence in Hull in May, at which the England under-16s girls ice hockey team will be selected. Bryony plays as a forward for Swindon under-14s.

Bryony and Jake will travel to Leuven, Belgium with the Swindon under-14s team on May 13 for an international tournament. They will face teams from Belgium, France, Germany, Holland and the Czech Republic, before emigrating to Ontario, Canada with their family on May 21.

ABOVE: Bryony Roberts.

Jake Roberts.

Cougars have too much bite

Keighley Cougars	**46**
South Wales Scorpions	**26**

AN early second half burst of tries sealed the win for Keighley Cougars to cement their second place position in the table.

The game was close to being a fairly even affair and the scoreline doesn't tell the full story of how hard the Welsh side worked in one of their longest toughest trips of the season.

Against the run of play, Keighley scored from their first attack, but Scorpions levelled when Aled James intercepted a pass and ran 60 metres to ground; Lewis Reece easily converted.

They took the lead from their next set when Andrew Gay broke through the defence to score under the sticks and Reece goaled again.

Scorpions let Cougars in for a second try, and Jason Demetriou broke through from kick-off to give Cougars the lead back.

Duffy followed him over from kick-off with Lawton converting both.

Scorpions crossed the line on the half-time hooter to leave Keighley 24–16 up at the interval.

However, the Cougars turned the screw in the second half and came away with the win.

IG

Cottrell Park ladies' Easter treasure hunt

COTTRELL Park ladies had a busy Easter week, starting with a treasure hunt in Cowbridge on Tuesday.

Ten teams of three set out to solve a list of clues and to find the objects asked for, returning with a swan, three feathers, a hummingbird and an object from out of space. Kay Bradbury, Mij Evans and Chris Impey were the worthy winners.

On Thursday, a 12-hole Easter Stableford was played in the sunshine, with some very good scores. The winner was Sandra Collin with 26 points, and second was Angela Padfield with 25 points. In third was Mary Davies with 24.

Following lunch Jenny McGlyne, the ladies' captain presented the winter league trophy to Helen Evans. The winter eclectic was won by Margaret Thomas.

She also gave the winners of the Easter competition nicely decorated baskets of Easter eggs, which were much appreciated.

The mixed Easter Monday Texas Scramble was enjoyed by all, and the winners were Jenny McGlyne, John McGlyne, Vicki Long and Robert McAndrew with a gross score of 69, net 62.6.

CB

Six-a-side leisure leagues

FC FALCONS picked up their first win of the campaign in the Cardiff six-a-side Sunday league – and what a win it was!

The ever-dangerous Luke Bowen was the star of the show as they trounced Jubulani 16–0.

It was a similar story elsewhere for Deportivo ATB, who got off the mark by beating The Nutty Boys 4–1 as Ashley Vickery starred.

Little Forces stated their intentions in the Bridgend six-a-side Wednesday league as Jeremy Griffiths proved the driving force behind a commanding 7–1 win over The Invincibles.

Beer Attack have moved to within a point of the summit as Glyn Davis starred in a 6–2 defeat of Valley Commandos, taking full advantage of El Wapos 1–1 stalemate with FC Ogmore.

Anyone who wants to join the leagues in South Wales can ring 0845 230 2340 or visit www.leisureleagues.net

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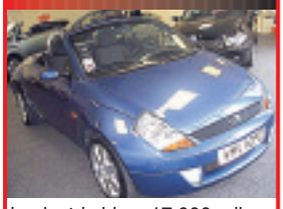

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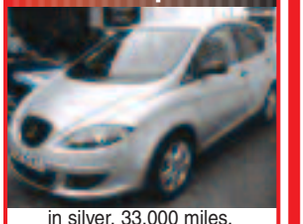

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NEWS FROM GLAMORGAN FARMERS GOLF

Successful return for president Geraint

THE president of the Glamorgan Farmers' Golf Society, Mr Geraint Davies, made a welcome return to the town of his birthplace when competing in the society's monthly competition last Thursday at Cradoc Golf Club, Brecon.

Scoring 35 stableford points, Geraint had a two-point winning margin over his nearest rivals to collect the society's own version of the Walker Cup from the day's generous sponsor Mr Tosh Taylor.

There to witness Geraint's fine achievement was his 88-year-old father, Mr Ioerwith Davies, who still resides in this beautiful part of Wales.

Aubrey Bowen with 33 points (16 points on back nine) finished second.

Coun Raymond Thomas, also with 33 points (14 on the back nine) finished third, and veteran Robert Thomas also with 33 points (13 on the back nine) finished fourth.

The society were particularly pleased to welcome five 'next generation' members to the day's event with Jamie and Harry Gibson, Rhydian Harris, Daniel Jarvis and David Taylor all enjoying the experience of playing on this beautiful parkland course with its superb views of the surrounding Brecon Beacons.

Also present for the evening's function was Owain Rees, grandson of Islwyn Rees who was successful at this venue in July 2000.

Sponsor's son David Taylor, with 43 points, won the guest section and also the 'James Hog Roast' sponsored longest drive competition.

Rhydian Harris, still smiling from his first-ever hole in one the previous weekend at Cottrell Park and playing his third round in two days, took second place with 37 points, and Brecon-based David Jones finished third with 36 points.

Congratulations also to Rhydian's brother Dewi, who recently holed out with his second shot on the difficult par four fifth hole on the Mackintosh course at Cottrell Park to secure his first-ever eagle.

David Jones, Aubrey Bowen,Geraint Davies, Tosh Taylor, Tony McCarthy and David Taylor.

The next generation of members – David Taylor, Harry Gibson, Daniel Jarvis, Jamie Gibson and Rhydian Harris.

Royal surprise!

Deputy secretary David Harris, still in recovery mode having missed out on an invitation to the wedding of the decade, sprang a surprise on the winners of the nearest the pin on the par three holes when producing specially purchased prizes to mark the following day's big event in Westminster Abbey.

Tosh Taylor, Bryan Owen, Jim Hayes and Neil Mclean all returned home with commemorative gifts to remind themselves and their families of William and Catherine's special day.

Ray Simkiss, undoubtedly one of the most consistent and generous contributors to the society's lost ball sweep, collected the 'Premier Turf' sponsored bottle of whisky when correctly guessing 34 balls would remain in the next county, which also raised £92 for the Samaritans' Purse Charity.

The society's next meeting will be the annual medal round competition for the Shrieval Trophy, kindly sponsored by Mr Islwyn Rees. This will be at Fairwood Park Golf Club on Thursday, May 26.

TMcC

Stand-in Tudor is a four-time winner

ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

JAMES TUDOR, assistant trainer to Llancarfan's Evan Williams, was in good form at the South Pembrokeshire Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases on Easter Monday.

Standing in for the injured John Mathias, Tudor rode a four-timer winning on David Evans's *Udeman* (Young Horse Maiden), Dai Rees's *Two Shook Men* (Open Maiden), David Llewellyn's *Rosies Peacock* (Men's Open) and Dai Rees's *Saint Peray* (Intermediate).

Udeman, a seven-year-old chestnut gelding, was backed from 5-1 to 5-4 favourite, and won by a distance from *Cloran Jack* ridden by Mathew Barber. Tudor's next winner, the oddly named *Two Shook Men*, a seven-year-old bay gelding, won by 10 lengths from *John Clayton*, also ridden by Mathew Barber.

Tudor's third winner of the day, *Rosies Peacock*, an eight-year-old bay gelding owned trained and bred by David Llewellyn, brother of Grand National winning jockey Carl Llewellyn, came home 12 lengths ahead of *Pathian Prince*, ridden by Paul Tolman.

Saint Peray, a five-year-old bay gelding, won by 30 lengths from the pacemaking *Rash Oak* partnered by Paul Tolman.

However, Tudor had began the day with a fall from the odds-on favourite *Lydstep Hills*, who had led at the penultimate fence in the members' race.

Sir Monty, a nine-year-old chestnut gelding, ridden by young Bradley Gibbs, was only just behind at the time and jumping a lot better than the favourite, and eventually went on to win by a distance from *Stafford Prince*, whose rider Paul Goldsworthy was having his first ride in a point-to-point since 1976!

David Brace, of the Dunraven Stud, Llanmihangel Farm, Pyle, saw his *Doctor Tom*, land the Restricted under Tom David. The eight-year-old bay gelding by *Dr Massini* won by 20 lengths from the favourite *Banagher,* ridden by James Tudor.

Lucy Pearce-Rowsell rode her first winner in a couple of years when landing the Ladies' Open race on the Charlotte Owen-trained *Baren De Roc*, a former inmate of Tim Vaughan's Aberthin's yard.

Baren De Rock, an eight-year-old bay gelding, won by five lengths from *Kisha King*, with the odds-on favourite *Fruitfull Citizen* a long way back in third place.

Starting prices – *Sir Monty* 2-1; *Udeman* 5-4 fav; *Baren De Roc* 5-1; *Two Shook Men* 5-2; *Rosies Peacock* evens fav; *Saint Peray* 1-2 fav; *Doctor Tom* 3-1; *Penway Tap Dancer* 1-3 fav; *Springs* 1-3 fav.

● On Sunday (May 8) the Tredegar Farmers are holding their annual Point-To-Point Steeplechases at Lower Machen, four miles west of Newport. First race 2pm.

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175/65R14	Bridgestone B250	£54.44	£101	£189
155/70R13	Avon ZT5	£37.44	£71	£138
165/70R13	Avon ZT5	£39.71	£77	£148
175/70R14	Avon ZT5	£50.71	£97	£184
175/65R14	Avon ZT5	£42.44	£81	£153
155/70R13	Nova	£31.84	£56	£101
165/70R13	Nova	£32.84	£60	£117
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195/60R15	Bridgestone B250	£67.44	£128	£245
185/60R14	Avon ZV5	£50.44	£97	£184
185/60R14	Avon ZV5	£54.44	£104	£199
185/60R15	Avon ZV5	£58.71	£111	£214
195/60R15	Avon ZV5	£53.44	£102	£194
185/60R14	Nova	£38.71	£70	£133
185/60R14	Tread	£37.33	£69	£131
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195/45R15	Bridgestone ER300	£68.44	£128	£245
205/55R16	Bridgestone ER300	£78.44	£148	£283
195/50R15	Avon ZV5	£50.44	£97	£184
195/60R15	Avon ZV5	£65.71	£123	£235
195/45R15	Avon ZV5	£55.44	£103	£199
205/55R16	Avon ZV5	£66.44	£128	£245
195/50R15	Fullway	£41.33	£77	£143
195/60R15	Roadstone	£48.84	£90	£173
195/45R15	Fullway	£45.22	£84	£161
205/55R16	Roadstone	£59.94	£112	£214

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225/45R17	Bridgestone RN050	£112.44	£214	£407
225/40R18 XL	Bridgestone RE050	£143.44	£276	£531
205/50R16	Avon ZV5	£80.44	£152	£291
205/55R16	Avon ZV5	£69.71	£132	£250
225/45R17 XL	Avon ZV5	£92.71	£179	£342
225/40R18 XL	Avon ZV5	£108.44	£203	£393
205/50R16	Nova	£53.84	£101	£194
205/55R16	Nova	£56.44	£107	£203
225/45R17	Nova	£61.71	£112	£214
225/40R18	Fullway	£55.24	£104	£203

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GEM sport

PRESENTATION NIGHT A SUCCESS

Season ends with home defeat by Old Illtydians

LAST Saturday, Cowbridge entertained Old Illtydians in a match that had an end of season feel to it, losing 22–48.

Old Illtyds got into their stride much quicker than Cowbridge and had landed a penalty and two tries before there was a response.

Unfortunately, there was a blow for Cowbridge as wing Ian Overton, in great form of late, had to leave the field with his troublesome hamstring injury; Damien Cottle replaced him.

Cowbridge outside half Dewi Edwards scored and converted a try that owed much to the approach work of captain Luke Adams, on for the first half to regain fitness.

Old Illtyds scored a further try and at half time it was 7–20. It was noticeable that several tackles were being missed.

Jac Williams came on a hooker, and Old Illtyds scored three more tries.

Alun John and Jamie Bennett came on for the last 10 minutes and Tom Hanks, from scrum half, moved the ball smartly to the midfield where centre Rhys Llewellyn handed off his marker to cross.

Next came a terrific try, finished off by full back Ed Lakin.

Old Illtyds had the last word to finish the scoring at 22–48, but the stand out player for Cowbridge was centre Luke Boys, with a tackle count in the 20s and some lovely passing.

The last game of the season is this Saturday, away at Ferndale where the game will surely be won or lost in the opening 10 minutes; kick off 2.30pm.

After the game there was a very enjoyable awards presentation for the youth team and First XV.

For the youth, the player of the season was Connor Boys; most improved player, Matt Logston; clubman of the year, Huw Moorcraft.

For the First XV, young player was Jac Williams; the most improved was David Popham; the player of the year was Matt Wright; the player's player was Huw Lougher, and Huw was also playing clubman of the season.

Non-playing clubman was the popular Nick Jones.

The night had a real party atmosphere about it and many thanks to all those who came down.

Thanks also to Talina Llewellyn for the sponsors' tasty spread, and to Andrew from Trio for the very well received hog roast.

RV/RK

Cricket 2nd XI start the season with a victory

THE 2011 season is upon us and Cowbridge 2nd XI began with a trip to the unseasonably sunny Maesteg Celtic.

Cowbridge were hopeful of continuing their good form from the previous season and the captain, on winning the toss, had no hesitation in inviting Maesteg to bat first.

John Gilbert and the talented Chris Brace led the Cowbridge attack. Both began the innings excellently, restricting the Maesteg batsmen and, coupled with good fielding, Maesteg found the going tough.

Chris was rewarded with two wickets and after his spell he was replaced by Sean Rowland, who was making his debut for Cowbridge 2nd XI.

Sean bowled superbly, belying his young age, and kept up the pressure on the Maesteg batsmen.

Maesteg crept to 86 off 30 overs when Andrew Brace and Ian Evans were brought into the attack, and wickets began to tumble.

The pair bowled excellently, supported by fantastic fielding from the Cowbridge side, in particular, Dan Evans, who took a quite fantastic catch at deep mid off.

The result of all this was that both Ian and Andrew finished with four wickets each and Maesteg were bowled out for 149 in 48 overs.

This was a terrific performance from the side and Cowbridge realised that, if they batted sensibly, then they could chalk up their first victory of the season.

Cowbridge opened the batting with Chris Ross and Chris Brace, who set about the task of chasing down the Maesteg total in a sensible and composed manner.

They reached 46 runs off 13 overs, when Chris Brace was out and Jonty Webb, the skipper, came to the crease.

Both Chris and Jonty continued to keep the scoreboard ticking, with sensible batting and good running between the wickets. Chris was finally out for a well made 27 and Jonty was joined by debutant, Sean Rowland.

Sean handled himself with considerable aplomb against an experienced Maesteg attack and ably supported Jonty, who continued in his own inimitable fashion to keep the runs flowing.

In the end, Andrew Brace joined the captain and the pair saw Cowbridge home for a fantastic victory. Cowbridge reached the required total in the 45th over for the loss of three wickets, with Jonty unbeaten on 48.

This was an excellent team performance with total commitment from all involved. It was very pleasing to see how the junior members of the side handled their first taste of 2nd XI cricket and with performances like this, the 2011 season looks like being a very promising one for Cowbridge Second XI.

JW

FIRSTS LOSE AT MAESTEG

FOR the first match of the 2011 season, Cowbridge Cricket Club welcomed Maesteg Celtic to the Athletic field on Saturday.

It turned out to be a nervous start to the season for both sides as they attempted to shrug off the effects of a long winter, and neither side managed to show that they had emerged fully from their hibernation.

Maesteg won the toss and put Cowbridge in to bat. They scored 132 in their allocated overs, a total that would not provide the opposition with too much difficulty.

Dependable Tom Merilaht scored his first half-century of the season, finally falling for 61. Sam Wood (18) and Adam Wood (14) ably supported their skipper, but this was not enough.

Maesteg easily scored the required runs on a hard and dry outfield. John Evans (33), Gareth Hopkins (29) and Leigh Morgan (24) were the main scorers.

Lloyd Bishop (3-52) and Tom Merilaht (2-37 bowled well, considering it was such a small total to defend.

Next Saturday, the First XI will travel to Pontyberem, and hopefully the winter's lethargy will be a distant memory.

The Second XI is at home.

DL

Bowling club teams have a busy weekend

COWBRIDGE Bowling Club had a busy week with the ladies playing two matches, as did the men.

Then, on Sunday, they had a mixed match at Saundersfoot. In the first match, the ladies hosted Kenfig Hill and Pyle in a friendly game, winning well on all three rinks.

Rink scores: Joan Bradley's team won 33-8; Anne Jarvis' team won 22–7; and Pat Davey's team won 20–12, making the overall score 75–27.

On the Wednesday, the men travelled to Bridgend and excelled themselves on grass by winning on all four rinks, with a final score of 63–43.

The best rink win was captain Norman Wilkinson's by 21-7 with all four players playing well. The other three members were Terry Dunsworth, Guy Morton and Bill Looker.

The other rinks scores were all very close games. Scores: Brian Kent'steam won 14-13; Roger Barwick's 14-12; and Dennis Snelling's team won 14-11.

The next day, the ladies played their first Rose Bowl match, which is only played on two rinks, winning on both, for a score of 35-27.

Captain May Jones' rink of Lynda Wilson, Kay Edwards and Sue Flower won 16-12, while Joan Bradley's rink won 19-15. The remaining members of the team were Diane Purnell, Glenys Davies and Joy Woolford.

On Saturday, the men travelled up to the top of the valleys for a friendly against Division One side Ferndale,which was played in a very friendly manner with the home side winning 102-55.

However, the rink of Dennis Snelling's team had a good win 21-18, with Mansel Davey, Brian Williams and Steve Dickens.

Roger Barwick's team only lost on the end by one shot 17-18.

The other two rinks both lost – Byron Richards' by 11-23 and David Jones' 6-43.

Then, to complete a busy week, the club went by coach for a mixed friendly against Saundersfoot. The match was played over six rinks, which is 24 bowlers, but 42 members travelled.

Cowbridge lost 91-129 against a Saundersfoot team that unfortunately only contained three ladies. The only winning team for us was Byron Richards' team of Glenys Davies, Bill Looker and Ron Woolford by 20-18.

Joy Woolford's rink drew 20-20 but the other four rinks all lost. Scores: May Jones 15-23; Shirley Wilkinson 12-29; John Jones 10-16;and Dennis Snelling 14-23.

A mixed week with results, but nevertheless an enjoyable one.

NJW

Southerndown ladies' golf success

A SECOND preliminary round for the Ladies Welsh Team Championships was played at St. Mellons Golf Club - Southerndown against Llanishen on Tuesday, April 26.

Southerndown Ladies won - the team was Amy Rees (won 5/4); Myriam Hassan (won 6/5); Alaitz Zubikarai (won 8/6); Helen Calvert (won 6/5); Amy Watkins (won 7/6). The team will now go on and play in Aberystwyth on June 17 - 19.

Cowbridge RFC under-10s win two tournaments

THE under-10s side has finished a hugely successful season in style, with two tournament wins in the space of a week!

Over the last two seasons the under-10s, coached by Stav Williams, have gone from strength to strength, but this has gone largely unnoticed.

In the 2009/2010 season, the boys won tournaments in Aberdare, Chippenham and St Albans and were unlucky to lose to the hosts in the final of the Bath tournament.

This year on Sunday, April 10, the boys surpassed previous achievements by becoming The Cardiff and Vale District Champions, beating local heavyweights Rhiwbina and Llanishen with some style on their way to the final.

Over the weekend April 16-17, the boys' reputation went 'international', with a trip to the Bournemouth tournament – which featured teams from across London, the south coast and the south west of England.

The tournament presented additional challenges for the boys. They had to play under English RFU rules, which meant contested scrums and lineouts.

The under-10s began their campaign with a convincing win over Ruislip. Cowbridge ran in seven tries.

Their strong performance continued against Fordingbridge with an 8-0 try victory.

The final pool match was a more evenly contested affair against Bournemouth Tigers, which resulted in a 3-0 victory to Cowbridge.

As a result of their clean sweep in the pool stages, Cowbridge booked a semi-final place against the might of Ealing RFC.

In a 'David v Goliath' performance the forwards won an heroic battle up-front, with immense strength in their tackles, ball retention and turn-over.

This enabled the Cowbridge backs to put on a display of running rugby. At the whistle, Cowbridge emerged victorious 3 tries to 1.

Ealing RFC were again their opponents in the final – this time Ealing B. The only try of the game was a 'Cowbridge classic', involving the whole team, finished off in spectacular fashion by Barny Langton-Cryer, to win the tournament.

Squad: Ioan Williams, Iestyn Fenn, Ben Jones, Jack Dixon, Luke Martin, Sam Green, Sam Russell, Lewis Hawke, Evan Thomas, Barny Langton-Cryer, Harry Edwards, Edward Lewis, Gabriel Davies, Barty Norton, Jamie Howells and Edward Devanold.

SW

Horse history!

MINSGILL MANS achieved a piece of point to point history at Cold Harbour near Leominster on Sunday.

Turn to page 40 to find out exactly how it managed to achieve it.

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